



Enhanced Integrated Framework

Trade for LDC development

EIF Annual Report 2024

Lasting partnerships,
sustained results



The Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) brings together partners and resources to support the least developed countries (LDCs) in using trade for poverty reduction, inclusive growth and sustainable development.

EIF Partner Agencies

International Monetary Fund (IMF)

International Trade Centre (ITC)

UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

United Nations Development
Programme (UNDP)

World Bank Group (WB)

World Trade Organization (WTO)

United Nations Industrial Development
Organization (UNIDO)

World Tourism Organization (UN Tourism)

EIF Trust Fund Manager

United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)

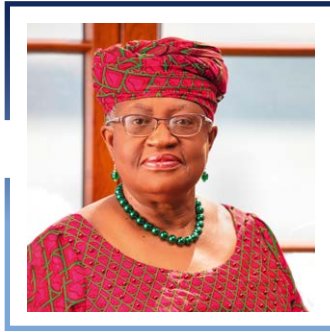
EIF Trust Fund Donors



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Foreword from the Director-General, World Trade Organization

Trade is a tool to improve people's lives: to raise their living standards, create jobs and promote the sustainability of the environment that surrounds them. These are the objectives set out in the WTO founding agreements. The WTO's 13th Ministerial Conference in 2024 reaffirmed Members' commitment to promoting inclusive and sustainable development through trade.

But not all countries are equally equipped to seize the opportunities presented by international markets. For the LDCs in particular, boosting capacity to tap into cross-border trade is an essential element of ensuring that they can share in the benefits of global commerce. Targeted support through the EIF plays a vital role in empowering the LDCs to overcome the obstacles keeping them on the margins of global supply networks.

Despite the strong headwinds facing global trade today, it remains an irreplaceable driver of development – one of many reasons that it is critically important to preserve an open and predictable global economy. Since 1995, low- and middle-income countries overall have doubled their share in global goods exports to over 32%, lifting 1.5 billion people out of extreme poverty in the process. But although some LDCs were very much part of this story, many others lagged behind and the group's collective share of global goods trade largely stagnated around 1 percent for over a decade and less than half that for services.

This report describes the work of the EIF in 2024 to upgrade LDC trade capacity. One highlight for the year was the accession of Comoros and Timor-Leste to the WTO – after multi-year accession negotiations, during which the EIF supported trade ministries in both countries to participate more effectively in working party meetings, prepare the documentation and set up the national committees necessary for their respective accession processes.

As access to traditional export markets becomes less certain, the LDCs will have to look increasingly to regional integration and markets elsewhere in the Global South. The EIF has already been supporting 22 LDCs to implement and benefit from the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). A key achievement in 2024 was the development of national AfCFTA strategies in ten LDCs across the continent, identifying each country's key products and services with strong intra-continental export potential and establishing clear actions to facilitate their trade.

The future of trade is services, digital and green. And the EIF in 2024 worked with the LDCs to help them access these emerging opportunities. For example, the EIF helped Djibouti promote sustainable tourism aimed at protecting the whale shark's marine ecosystem. In Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Lesotho, The Gambia and Tanzania, the EIF supported governments in implementing the AfCFTA Digital Trade Protocol, which provides a regulatory

framework for facilitating digital trade across Africa by addressing issues such as market access and treatment of digital products, digital trade facilitation, data governance, digital trade inclusion, etc. In Cambodia, the NIU (National implementation Unit) worked closely with international agencies and development partners to better align green trade standards, rules of origin and double-transformation rules with the European Union's (EU) market requirements.

The EIF's work goes to the heart of what we at the WTO call "re-globalization": building a more resilient and more prosperous world economy by bringing more places and people – including the LDCs – from the margins to the mainstream of global production and trade networks.

As the EIF transitions from the end of its second phase towards a third iteration, the context for overseas development assistance has shifted dramatically with increasing cuts to development assistance budgets. Against this backdrop, it is

more critical than ever for development partners to intensify their support for LDCs. This includes also mobilizing private sector resources to help establish economic momentum that LDCs can sustain long after projects and programmes have ended.

The EIF has made a difference in LDCs, I am hopeful that the renewed EIF Phase Three will continue to make the targeted investments necessary to help people in the LDCs use trade to improve their lives and livelihoods.

I am grateful for the hard work and support of our LDC partners and EIF Donors and I look forward to the next exciting phase of investing in trade to drive sustainable economic growth and foster resilient development pathways in the world's most vulnerable countries.

Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala,
Director-General of the WTO





Message from the EIF Board Chair

With the end of EIF Phase Two, 2024 was a year of transition, evaluation and forward-planning. Much of the work involved winding down the remaining initiatives of the last phase, with all EIF Phase Two projects scheduled for complete closure by the end of the year and the substantial effort to design, approve and commence the EIF Interim Facility (EIF InFa) projects.

This report details the emerging impacts of EIF Phase Two projects in 2024 and the results from the activities of the EIF InFa, which ensured continuity during the transition. In 2024, 42 EIF InFa projects were approved in 41 countries, exceeding the target of 40 projects and the total EIF funding to them was USD 5.26 million, with additional co-funding of USD 7.2 million from LDC governments and development partners. This significant co-funding is proof of the strong commitment the LDC governments demonstrate to the EIF programme.

The EIF InFa was an important transitional vehicle, while a future support mechanism for the LDCs was being developed. Support from the EIF Donors – Finland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Sweden, the United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom – enabled the

EIF Board to extend the implementation of the EIF InFa to September 2025, allowing for a smoother transition to a new trade-related technical assistance programme for the LDCs. We are truly grateful for the support from these Donors, without whom we would not have been able to fill the gap of support to the LDCs.

I am particularly excited about the new multilateral trade assistance programme for the LDCs that the Taskforce has been working on. On my behalf and that of the EIF Board, I would like to thank the Taskforce, the Executive Secretariat for the EIF (ES) and the EIF Trust Fund Manager (TFM) for ensuring continuity while preparing for a future phase.

We look forward to an even stronger collaboration with the EIF Donors, development partners and the LDC governments, as we work together to create shared opportunities built on mutually beneficial trade.

H.E. Mr Yackoley Kokou Johnson,

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Togolese Republic to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva



Message from the EIF Steering Committee Chair

The importance of integrating the LDCs into the global economy cannot be gainsaid. Over the two phases of the EIF programme, we have seen the power of trade in creating jobs and economic opportunities, as well as lifting millions of people, including children, women and other vulnerable groups, out of extreme poverty.

Digital transformation initiatives, such as Cambodia's e-commerce platform, have given entrepreneurs in the LDCs a foot through new virtual trading doors, while more than 170,000 women have benefitted from EIF interventions so far.

These matters are close to my heart and it has been gratifying to see up-close the hard work that goes into improving productive capacity, access to international markets and the competitiveness of LDC economies on the global stage.

The transition from the end of EIF Phase Two to the EIF InFa has occurred in a context marked by pressing global economic and climate change concerns. These challenges highlight, more than

ever, the need for the EIF and its unique mechanisms and its grassroots reach in promoting sustainable trade practices.

In 2024, the 13th WTO Ministerial Conference in Abu Dhabi and the WTO's Global Review of Aid for Trade (AfT) underscored the significance of digital connectivity, trade mainstreaming and food security. I am optimistic that a new programme of trade-related support to the LDCs will pay particular attention to women and other vulnerable groups in ensuring that no-one is left behind.

I thank the EIF Board, EIF Donors, the ES, the TFM, the LDC governments and all staff for their continuing work to unlock shared values and opportunities through trade. Many challenges lie ahead, but our will to surmount them is unequalled.

H.E. Mrs Heidi Schroderus-Fox,
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of
Finland to the United Nations and International
Organizations in Geneva





Message from the Executive Director, Executive Secretariat for the EIF

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This report gives an overview of the results we achieved during 2024 – a period of transition, in which our efforts geared towards closing EIF Phase Two projects dovetailed with the implementation of the EIF InFa. With the EIF InFa, most of the work and funding was concentrated in eight priority areas: sustainability of the EIF NIUs; monitoring and learning lessons from past EIF projects; trade-related capacity-building; resource mobilization; regional trade integration; sustainable and inclusive trade; and supporting graduation from LDC status and accession to the WTO.

Our work can be defined in three broad areas. First, we devoted a considerable amount of our time and energy to closing all the outstanding projects from EIF Phase Two, including documenting successes and lessons learned.

Secondly, the EIF InFa served as a transition arrangement that, with the generous support of the EIF Donors, maintained and resourced ongoing projects and capacity-building activities. As a sign of confidence, the EIF InFa's co-funding target of USD 5 million was surpassed by 45%, with some LDC governments, such as Benin, Mali and Burkina Faso, providing USD 1.7 million, USD 771,000 and USD 643,000, respectively, in co-funding to the USD 150,000 provided by the EIF to each country.

We saw an increase in production and trade, with an additional USD 158 million worth of goods and services exported. In Togo, for instance, an independent evaluation of the EIF-supported soya value chain development project showed a sharp rise in output, with exports increasing from 9,400 metric tonnes (MT) in 2015 to 160,000 MT worth nearly USD 80 million in 2024.

Thirdly, to further cement the place of the LDCs in global and regional trade systems, we celebrated the accession of Comoros and Timor-Leste to the WTO in 2024. Bhutan, Ethiopia, Somalia and South Sudan are in the pipeline and receiving support for their accession processes. The EIF also continued to support the LDCs in Africa to take advantage of the AfCFTA, the world's largest trade bloc by membership.

These results vindicate our other efforts to increase the sustainability of the NIU and deepen their integration into national development plans and governing structures. This increases their productivity and ability to leverage new sources of financing, as was possible, for example, in Bhutan, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Tanzania and elsewhere.

These and other accomplishments detailed in this report underscore the positive impact of EIF InFa projects on production, exports and market entry, and demonstrate the programme's effectiveness in supporting the LDCs.

None of it would have been possible without the EIF Donors whose combined USD 10.5 million contribution to the EIF InFa helped finance 42 projects in 41 LDCs. We thank them for their generous contributions.

We also thank our EIF Board and EIF Steering Committee for their diligent stewardship and the WTO Director-General and her office for their continued guidance and support. We look forward to an even stronger partnership in the future multilateral trade support programme to the LDCs that is even more agile, effective and transformative.

Ratnakar Adhikari,

Executive Director,

Executive Secretariat for the EIF at the WTO



EIF PHASE TWO SNAPSHOT

with EIF InFa additions

37 countries integrated trade into their new national development plans (NDPs) through EIF Phase Two.

3 additional countries supported to mainstream trade into their NDPs in 2024 under the EIF InFa.

26 countries were facilitated to participate in the AfCFTA under EIF Phase Two.

22 countries (including 7 new not supported in Phase Two) supported to engage in AfCFTA under the EIF InFa.

175 projects were undertaken.
an additional 42 projects are underway under the EIF InFa.

USD 143 million was contributed to the EIF Trust Fund (EITF) over EIF Phase Two.

USD 10.5 million contributed to the EIF InFa Trust Fund.

170,000+ women were trained/supported.

4,798 women trained or supported under the EIF InFa.

For every **USD 1** disbursed by the EITF to countries during EIF Phase Two, **USD 0.5** was matched in co-funding.

Every USD 1 disbursed by the EITF attracted USD 1.3 in co-funding under the EIF InFa.

10 LDCs were supported to accede to the WTO.

5 LDCs were provided with WTO accession and post-accession support under the EIF InFa.

45 of 48 NIUs were integrated into LDC governments during EIF Phase Two.

11 NIUs improved their integration score under the EIF InFa.

50,000+ jobs (45% female) were created by EIF beneficiary micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) during EIF Phase Two.

7,000+ jobs, of which 92% for women, were created in 2024 under the EIF InFa.

USD 2 billion in financing linked to EIF structures or Diagnostic Trade Integration Studies (DTISs).

USD 186 million leveraged by EIF structures under the EIF InFa.

The EIF in a nutshell

The EIF is the only multilateral partnership exclusively dedicated to assisting the LDCs in using trade to power growth, sustainable development and poverty reduction. It uses a unique model built around NIU that are homegrown and embedded into national governing structures — primarily ministries of trade, to create local ownership, value for money (VfM) and a lasting public good.

The EIF's 51 participating countries, 26 Donors and eight Partner Agencies, work closely with governments, development organizations, civil society and academia to leverage expertise and resources to tackle the LDCs most pressing trade-for-development issues. The ES is strategically housed at the WTO to facilitate increased coordination, collaboration and tailored support to the LDCs based on their national priorities and multilateral imperatives.

The Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Target 8.a., which focuses on increasing AfT support for developing countries, particularly the LDCs, directly recognizes the role of the EIF in achieving this Goal.

The Doha Programme of Action for the LDCs 2022-2031 acknowledges and builds on achievements made by the EIF to enhance the institutional and productive capacities of the LDCs in line with the goal of the 2030 Agenda to “leave no-one behind”.

What this report covers

In 2024, all EIF Phase Two projects were completed and, for the first time during an EIF phase transition, the EIF InFa supported the continuity and sustainability of previous investments while a future phase was being agreed upon.

With the end of EIF Phase Two and during discussions around a future phase, Finland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Sweden, the United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom contributed critical funding of USD 10.5 million to the EIF InFa. This was crucial, as the EIF InFa significantly helped minimize the risks of disruption associated with a gap in support to the LDCs.

This 2024 EIF Annual Report showcases results categorized in the key thematic areas built into the EIF InFa: supporting NIU integration and sustainability; supporting the LDCs' integration into global and regional trading systems; contributing to sustainable and inclusive trade; promoting private sector engagement and investment in the LDCs for trade development; leveraging additional resources for trade development; and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of past EIF projects.

WHERE WE WORK



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AMERICAS

Haiti

AFRICA

Angola
Benin
Burkina Faso
Burundi
*Cabo Verde**
Central African Republic
Chad
Comoros
Democratic Republic of the Congo
Djibouti
*Equatorial Guinea**
Eritrea
Ethiopia
The Gambia
Guinea
Guinea-Bissau

Lesotho
Liberia
Madagascar
Malawi
Mali
Mauritania
Mozambique
Niger
Rwanda
São Tomé and Príncipe*
Senegal
Sierra Leone
Somalia
South Sudan
Sudan
Tanzania
Togo
Uganda
Zambia

MIDDLE EAST

Yemen

ASIA

Afghanistan
Bangladesh
Bhutan*
Cambodia
Lao PDR
*Maldives**
Myanmar
Nepal
Timor-Leste

PACIFIC

Kiribati
*Samoa**
Solomon Islands
Tuvalu
Vanuatu*

Countries listed in yellow and italics did not have active ELF projects in 2024 (Afghanistan, Cabo Verde, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Maldives, Myanmar, Samoa, Sudan and Yemen).

* Graduated countries.

HOW WE WORK

OUR **WORK**

OUR **DELIVERY**

OUR **GOALS**



WHAT MAKES THE EIF UNIQUE?

« The EIF has been a longstanding partner in Cambodia's trade journey, even before our WTO accession. It supported the first Diagnostic Trade Integration Study, which laid the groundwork for our trade sector-wide approach, Trade SWAp. The EIF's success in Cambodia rests on three key factors: country ownership through the Department of International Cooperation which serves as the NIU and a bridge to development partners; effective coordination and in-country partnerships through which we have mobilized over 100 million dollars in trade-related support, including nine million from the EIF; and capable people in whom we have invested and reduced the reliance on external consultancy services. Today the NIU is a public good that does a lot more than implementing EIF projects. It is driving social-economic transformation.

H.E. Mrs Nimul Cham,
Minister of Commerce, Cambodia.



The EIF approach is rooted in LDC ownership and dynamic partnerships, with support anchored in national priorities and areas of need. The EIF uses local expertise whenever possible, backstopped by international technical assistance, to design solutions to trade development challenges that have a better prospect for contributing to long-term systemic change. This collaboration is driven by dynamic NIUs integrated into LDC trade ministries that operate as sustainable public goods for trade coordination and implementation. The partnership combines governments, donors, development agencies, civil society and the private sector, all working together to harness the power of trade and investment for the LDCs.

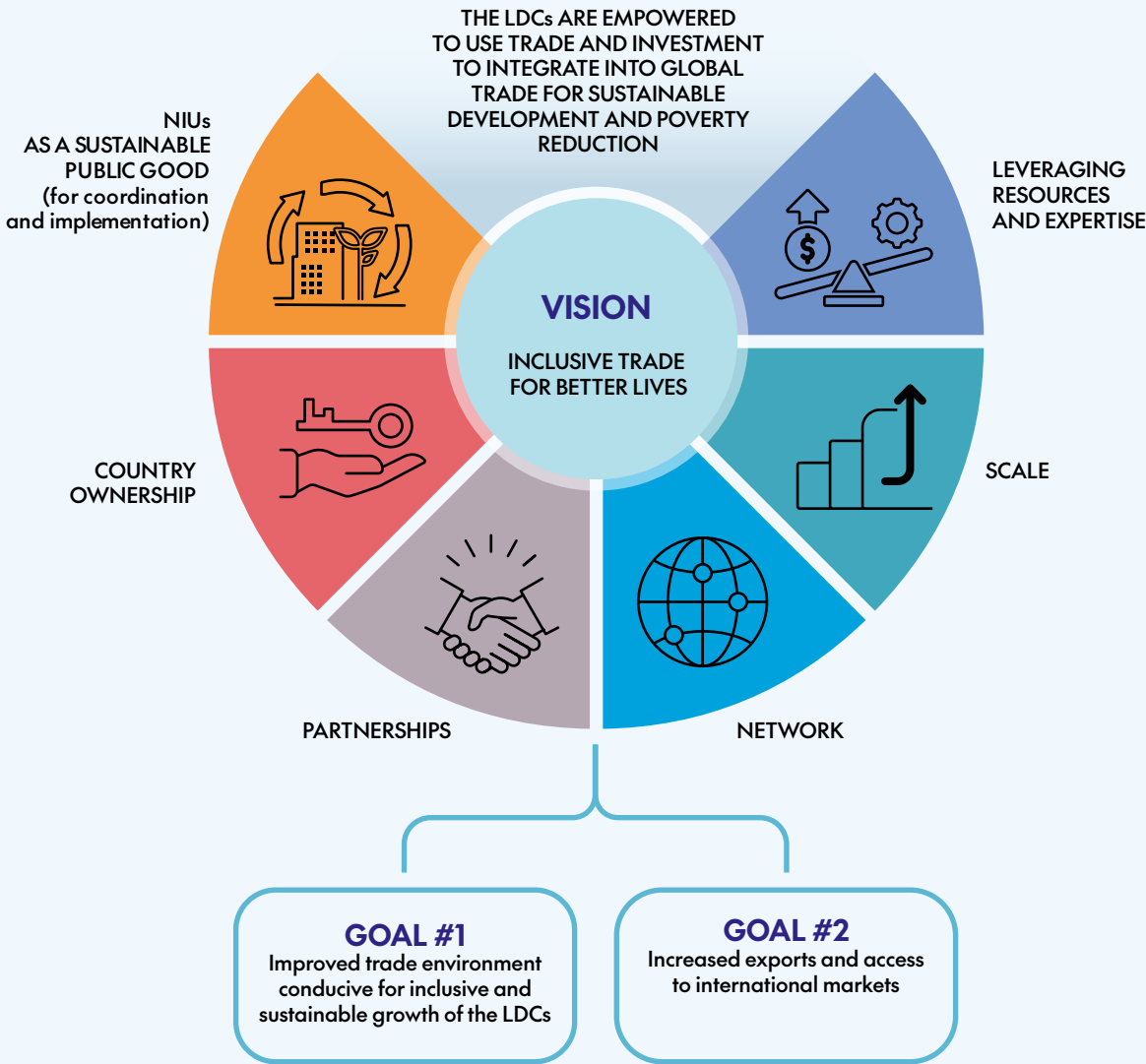
The EIF stands out as a predictable source of AfT for all LDCs, recognized in Goal 8a of the SDGs and Article 174 of the final text of the Doha Programme of Action endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly in March 2022. It supports the leveraging of resources from LDC governments, development partners and the private sector to advance the implementation of national trade and investment priorities while ensuring that no-one is left behind. It works across the full spectrum of the LDCs and recently graduated countries, up to five years after their graduation. At its essence, the EIF is a long-standing trusted trade partner of the LDCs, known for its neutrality, responsiveness and agile approach.

Key aspects of the EIF that contribute to its main goals, mission and vision

The EIF is aligned with SDG 8, which seeks to promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.



MISSION



BRIDGE FINANCING SUPPORT

to the LDCs – the EIF InFa

With the end of EIF Phase Two, the EIF InFa was established with donor support to maintain and build on the existing results of the EIF until a future multilateral support mechanism for the LDCs becomes operational. The EIF InFa, which will run until September 2025, operates under the same governance structure, including the ES and the TFM, but with a leaner structure that emphasizes VfM and minimizes both programme- and country-level operational expenses.

The EIF InFa was designed to meet the most immediate needs and priorities of the LDCs that were achievable with limited time and funding to ensure continued engagement and momentum. The criteria for allocation focused on the development impact and urgency of technical interventions. The EIF InFa built on two key outcomes of EIF Phase Two: enhancing the trade environment for inclusive and sustainable growth in the LDCs; and boosting their exports and access to international markets.

By December 2024, EIF Donor support of USD 10.5 million for the EIF InFa had financed 42 projects in 41 LDCs. An additional USD 7.2 million in co-funding was mobilized, exceeding the target of USD 5 million.

The total allocation of EIF InFa funds to the 41 beneficiary LDCs was USD 5.26 million and it supported activities across eight priority areas. The highest share of 31% was allocated to activities related to NIU sustainability, followed by those related to monitoring and capturing impacts from past EIF projects (17%), trade-related capacity-building (15%), resource mobilization (10%), support to accession/post-accession as well as LDC graduation efforts (10%), regional integration (9%) and trade mainstreaming (8%).



EIF InFa *priority areas*

NIU sustainability:

Supporting the NIUs to remain integrated within governments and to stay relevant and active amidst ongoing discussions on a future multilateral AfT support mechanism for the LDCs.

Resource mobilization:

Helping the LDCs to work with development partners, governments and the private sector to finance their trade development priorities.

Trade mainstreaming:

Promoting the integration of trade into NDPs, sectoral strategies and policies.

Monitoring past EIF projects:

Supporting the LDCs to monitor and report on the impacts of past EIF projects to leverage further AfT resources.

Accession and post-accession to the WTO:

Assisting the LDCs in their WTO engagements.

Capacity-building:

Providing trade-and-investment-related support and training for officials and private sector actors.

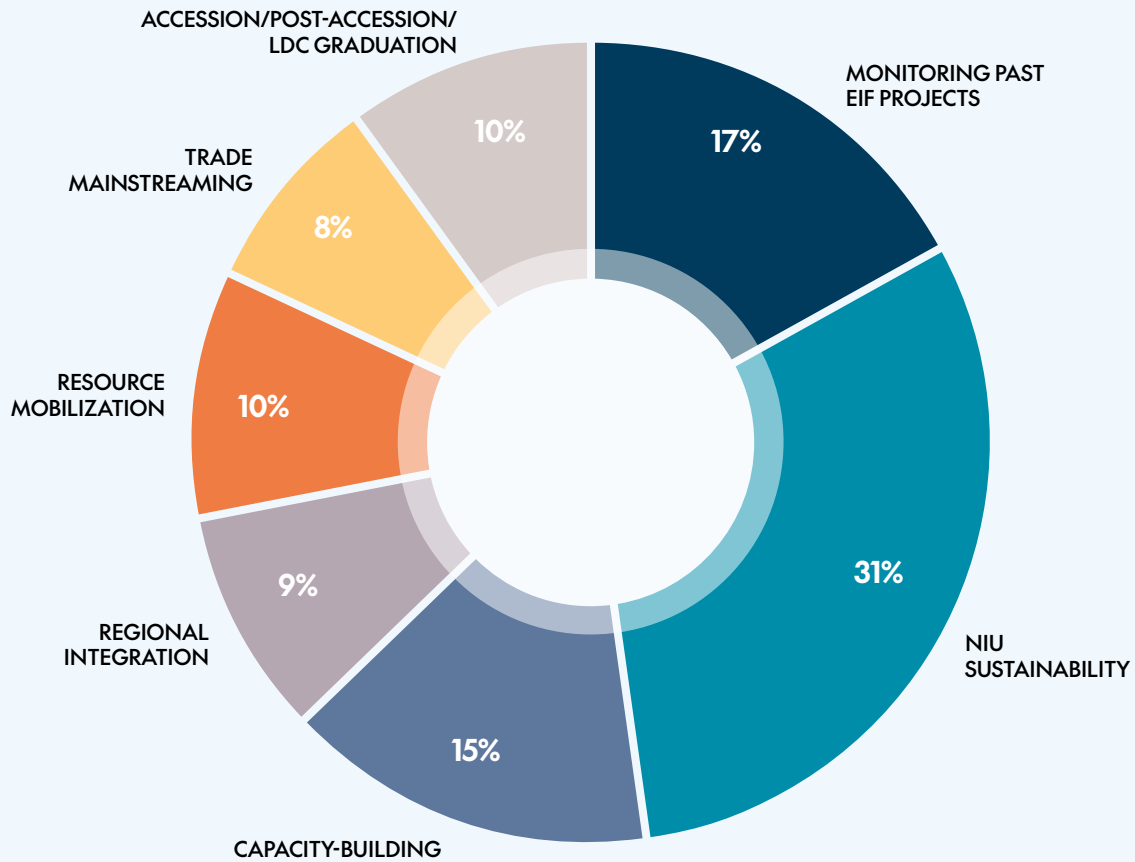
Regional integration:

Enabling the LDCs to fully benefit from regional trade agreements.

LDC graduation:

Supporting targeted interventions in the LDCs scheduled for graduation.

Budget allocation by core EIF InFa support areas



By the end of 2024, the average work plan implementation rate of EIF InFa projects across beneficiary countries was around 69%.

01

Support to NIU integration and sustainability

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At a glance

2025 EIF InFa target:

40 NIUs integrated.

2024 EIF InFa results:

40 NIUs integrated.

How the EIF does it: NIUs are technical teams established by LDC trade ministries to support the implementation of their AfT priorities. This support includes coordinating and implementing a wide range of AfT projects and processes; supporting the trade mainstreaming agenda; and servicing key multi-stakeholder coordination bodies.

The EIF's approach to supporting NIU integration and sustainability begins with establishing NIU functions within ministries of trade. Initially, the EIF covers core funding with the expectation that national governments will gradually assume this responsibility. To facilitate this transition, the EIF engages with LDC governments to plan NIU integration, advise on successful models, and provide dedicated funding for sustainability. Additionally, the EIF ensures that NIUs develop the capacity to mobilize AfT resources and also manage non-EIF trade-related projects, thus enhancing their relevance and sustainability.

Deeper roots

Beneficiary LDCs maintained a positive integration score, with 40 NIUs in the 41 EIF InFa countries rated as integrated. The exception is Somalia, where the NIU is yet to be set up. Under the EIF InFa, 11 NIUs have improved their integration rating, exceeding

the target of 5. The EIF uses a set of 5 (+1) criteria for assessing NIU integration¹ and a country is considered integrated if it meets four out of the five criteria.

Metrics for sustainability

The sustainability of NIUs is assessed based on three parameters:

- The percentage of government funding for NIU operational costs compared to EIF contributions.
- The percentage of government funding for NIU staffing costs compared to EIF contributions.
- The percentage of non-EIF funds mobilized and managed by the NIU compared to EIF project financing.

If the share of EIF contributions is, on average, significantly higher across these three parameters, NIU sustainability is considered low due to its high dependence on EIF funding. Conversely, if EIF contributions are on average significantly lower across the three parameters relative to other partners' contributions, such as government or development partners, NIU sustainability is considered high. The sustainability rating scale that applies is the following:

- **Low sustainability** applies when the average EIF contribution to all three parameters is **80% or higher** compared to contributions from other partners.
- **Medium sustainability** applies when the average EIF contribution to all three parameters is **between 50% and 79%** compared to contributions from other partners.

- **High sustainability** applies when the average EIF contribution to all three parameters is **below 50%**.

Based on this assessment methodology, a detailed evaluation conducted for all EIF InFa countries rated 18 NIUs as 'high', 16 as 'medium' and 6 as 'low'. These ratings are almost comparable to the baseline situation, where 18 NIUs were rated as 'high', 14 as 'medium' and 8 as low.

While the number of countries rated at each level under the EIF InFa is almost similar to the baseline, the evaluation found that over the review period, six NIUs worsened their sustainability ratings. Specifically, Djibouti, Togo and Uganda moved from 'high' to 'medium'; Ethiopia moved from 'high' to 'low'; and Timor-Leste and Tuvalu moved from 'medium' to 'low'.

Conversely, seven NIUs improved their sustainability ratings: Haiti, São Tomé and Príncipe and Zambia moved from 'low' to 'medium'; Benin moved from 'low' to 'high'; and Burkina Faso, Sierra Leone and South Sudan moved from 'medium' to 'high'.

¹ NIU integration is determined by whether an NIU meets at least 4 out of 5 key criteria, including i) the NIU is hosted by the relevant government trade ministry; ii) there is a formal decision making the NIU part of the ministry organogram; iii) NIU personnel comprises civil servants; iv) the NIU coordinates trade-related technical assistance at the level of the ministry; and v) the NIU facilitates trade-related intersectoral bodies. In addition to the five criteria, a bonus criterion assesses any other core ministry function undertaken by the NIU.



Country cases

Cambodia capitalizes on the NIU

 In Cambodia, the NIU (Department of International Cooperation) is a full fledged department of the Ministry of Commerce with over 20 staff whose tasks go beyond the implementation of EIF projects. It is responsible for leading the development of major policy documents and for mobilizing and managing AfT funds provided by other development partners. The NIU led the development of the comprehensive Trade Policy Framework to guide the country in its path towards graduating from the LDC category by 2029 and help it benefit fully from the multilateral trading system. It also played a key role in implementing Cambodia's well-known Trade Sector-wide Approach (SWAp), which focused on capacity-building and brought together line ministries and partners on a unified platform for trade development. Under the EIF InFa, the Cambodia NIU contributed to leveraging about USD 10.5 million from the European Union (EU)'s Global Access for Trade Expertise project launched in 2024.

Cambodia maintained its NIU integration score of 6 out of 6 as well as its **'high'** NIU sustainability rating.



Benin bounces back

 By the end of EIF Phase Two, the Benin NIU sustainability was rated low. EIF funding accounted for more than half of all NIU-managed funds and operational costs. The unit was unable to mobilize non-EIF AfT resources or manage the implementation of other AfT projects. Today, thanks to the EIF's continuous engagement through the InFa, the NIU's mandate was enhanced into the principal AfT management structure of the Ministry of Trade and Industry, with the Government allocating over USD 850,000 in 2024 for the NIU to coordinate the implementation of activities addressing different trade priorities. In addition, the NIU secured USD 308,000 from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to implement component three of IFAD's Regional Agriculture Market Integration Programme. As a result, the EIF's fund contribution to activities was only about 13% in 2024, and the share of staff costs covered by the EIF was eliminated. This is in stark contrast to the baseline, at the end of EIF Phase Two, when the EIF's contribution to operations and staffing was over 80%.

Accordingly, the NIU integration score has improved from 5 to 6 and the NIU sustainability rating has also improved from **'low'** to **'high'**.

Sierra Leone's strides

 The country improved its integration and sustainability ratings under the EIF InFa by deepening and expanding the role of the NIU within the Ministry of Trade and Industry, where it has been integrated into the Directorate of Export Promotion. Staff were assigned specific roles to coordinate and monitor EIF-supported initiatives, aligning them with national trade frameworks. For example, the NIU Coordinator acted as chief negotiator and senior trade official for AfCFTA negotiations, besides other advisory functions.

This integration ensures that EIF activities are embedded within all Ministry of Trade policies and programmes, serving as a key mechanism for implementing Sierra Leone's national trade agenda. The Government covers all staff costs and the NIU raised non-EIF funds worth USD 305,000 from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the EU and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). This reduced the share of the EIF's contribution to the unit's portfolio to less than half during the EIF InFa period.

Sierra Leone improved its integration score from 5 to 6 in 2024. The NIU also improved its sustainability score from '**medium**' to '**high**'.

Central African Republic's case

 The NIU is an integral part of the Ministry of Trade, effectively functioning as the planning department. The Government covers all operational expenses and the unit's technical staff, comprising civil servants, are funded through the national budget. The NIU is also able to mobilize resources from other development partners. For instance, it raised USD 650,000 in green financing from the Government of Korea for investing in mini solar-powered plants and IT tools. This model of full integration has worked so well that it has been used as an example in other countries.

CAR maintained its NIU integration score of 6 out of 6 in 2024 and its '**high**' sustainability rating.

Mali musters more Government support

 The Government of Mali consistently contributes more than the EIF, giving over USD 11 million in EIF Phase One and Two, compared to USD 8 million from the EIF. In 2024, the Government allocated USD 800,000 for EIF support, demonstrating a high level of Government ownership hence contributing to the NIU's sustainability.

Mali maintained its NIU integration score of 5 out of 6 in 2024. It also maintained its '**medium**' NIU sustainability rating.



Commitment in Comoros

 The NIU is well integrated within the Ministry of Trade and the Ministry of Finance allocates a dedicated budget line to support its annual operations. Unit staff hold significant roles; for instance, the Coordinator served as the focal point for Economic Partnership Agreement negotiations, while the M&E Officer managed AfCFTA negotiations. Additionally, the unit coordinates the implementation and the monitoring, evaluation and learning aspects of a USD 3.6 million EU-funded Support Programme for Production, Industrialisation and Free Trade in Comoros in collaboration with the International Trade Centre (ITC) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). This model has drawn interest from the EU, which is considering a similar set-up in Madagascar.

Comoros maintained its NIU integration score of 6 out of 6 and its '**high**' sustainability rating in 2024.



Value in Vanuatu



The EIF-supported NIU was established as the Vanuatu Aid for Trade Management Unit, alongside the National Trade Development Committee, to coordinate all trade-related matters. Described by local stakeholders as a “game changer” in trade-related decision-making, the Committee has served as a central coordination hub—enhancing the efficiency of policy-making and fostering collaboration among key actors. It has effectively brought together the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (the project implementer), the Vanuatu Foreign Investment Promotion Agency (VFIPA) and other stakeholders in the development of the 2025–2030 VFIPA Strategy.

Vanuatu maintained its NIU integration score of 5 out of 6 in 2024. It also maintained its **‘high’** sustainability rating.



Rwanda's reforms



Initially supported by the EIF, the country's NIU has since evolved into a Single Project Implementation Unit (SPIU) that serves as the primary conduit for AfT support to the Government. This evolution began with the Government's desire to improve coordination of project implementation processes across ministries and agencies, which led to trade being mainstreamed into Rwanda's National Strategy for Transformation. The NIU's early work in developing cross-border markets, beginning with the construction of two cross-border market centres funded by the EIF, attracted additional support from partners, including the World Bank (WB) and TradeMark Africa. A further six such markets were eventually developed. Rwanda's SPIU model has been so successful that it is now targeted to be replicated in Liberia. In 2024, the unit secured USD 26 million to implement a component of the WB-funded Kigali Logistics Platform Connectivity Development Project. It will increase sustainability by securing funding for core SPIU staff positions, including that of the Coordinator, over the next six years.

Rwanda maintained its NIU integration score of 5 out of 6 in 2024. It also maintained its **‘high’** sustainability rating.





02

Supporting LDC integration in the global trading system

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At a glance

2025 EIF InFa target:

5 countries supported.

2024 EIF InFa results:

29 countries supported to deepen integration in the global and regional trading system.

22 African LDCs supported by the EIF InFa to engage in the AfCFTA.

How the EIF does it: The EIF supports the implementation of concrete activities in LDCs contributing to progress in accession to the WTO or their participation in regional trading blocs, as well as fulfilling new bilateral, WTO, regional or continental trade agreements.

Supporting integration into the global trading system – Focus on the WTO

In **Bhutan**, the NIU, in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, conducted a capacity-building training on the WTO and related matters as part of WTO accession support efforts in Paro in December 2024. The workshop enhanced participants' skills in understanding trade agreements, legal terminology and drafting strategies. It also provided valuable exposure to WTO-related processes for the 25 participants, who included 12 women.

In **Nepal**, the EIF InFa funded the preliminary report of the Taskforce for the Ratification of the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies. The EIF InFa has also backed WTO requirements, such as preparations for Nepal's third Trade Policy Review, by supporting sensitization workshops for different government agencies, as well as the submission of more than 23 notifications.



Country cases

Somalia

During 2024, the EIF InFa, supported by the technical expertise of the Trade Policy Training Centre in Africa (TRAPCA), strengthened Somalia's capacity to navigate WTO accession by training 90 officials (half of them female) from various agencies, coordinated by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, in economic modeling, economic diplomacy and customs modernization and trade facilitation.

The training improved the officials' capacity to navigate the complexities and regulatory requirements of WTO membership; enhance and advance Somalia's WTO accession process; and present its interests on sector-specific issues during the WTO Working Party sessions. Officials are now better able to analyze trade data and assess the economic and social implications of tariff changes, potential policy shifts and non-tariff barriers, among other skills.



H.E. Mr. Salah Ahmed Jama, Deputy Prime Minister of Somalia, delivers remarks at the first meeting of the Working Party on the Accession of Somalia at WTO headquarters in Geneva

Ethiopia eyes accession

During 2024, the fifth round of the WTO Accession Working Party Meeting document preparation and stakeholder engagements were partly supported by the EIF InFa in the capital, Addis Ababa, in collaboration with the WTO team in Geneva. The Ethiopia Accession Steering Committee met in September 2024 to endorse the documents and schedule the 5th Working Party Meeting, which was successfully held later in March 2025.

The EIF InFa also supported training for 63 (38 of them female) Ethiopian public officials, including from the Ministry of Trade and Regional Integration and

the House of People's representatives, on the WTO accession process, the AfCFTA and trade-related subjects. It also supported training for 96 (29 female) participants from the private sector and regional representatives on related trade agendas.

In December 2024, a high-level delegation led by H.E. Dr Kassahun Gofe Balami, Minister of Trade and Regional Integration and Chief Negotiator WTO Accession, participated in Uzbekistan Working Party Meeting to learn from their experience, followed by a full steering committee training on WTO working party negotiations.



H.E. Dr. Kassahun Gofe Balami, Ethiopia's Minister of Trade and Regional Integration and Chief Negotiator for WTO Accession, addresses WTO members during the 5th Working Party meeting on Ethiopia's accession at WTO headquarters in Geneva.

« We are grateful for the EIF Interim Facility support, which has been instrumental in advancing Ethiopia's WTO accession process in 2024—particularly through training, logistical support and enabling participation in preparatory activities for the 5th Working Party Meeting scheduled for March 2025. However, considerable work remains, as Ethiopia is determined to accede to the WTO in 2026. We would welcome the launch of EIF Phase Three as soon as possible, as donor support will be essential to seize this momentum. This support will also assist our efforts for AfCFTA, enhance our export diversification schemes and contribute to broader productive capacity building efforts.

H.E. Dr. Kassahun Gofe Balami, Minister of Trade and Regional Integration, Chief Negotiator for WTO, AfCFTA and Bilateral Negotiations, Chairperson of the EIF National Steering Committee in Ethiopia.



Supporting integration in regional trading systems – Focus on the AfCFTA roll-out

Implemented by NIUs and supported by other partners, such as the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC), EIF Phase Two supported the ratification and implementation of the AfCFTA across various LDCs on the continent.

Under the EIF InFa, 22 LDCs continued to benefit from AfCFTA-related support, accounting for 8% of the total EIF InFa allocations to countries (in all, since EIF Phase Two, 33 LDCs in Africa have benefited from AfCFTA-related activities).

The EIF's demand-driven approach to supporting AfCFTA implementation has been multifaceted. It focused on building the capacities of public officials, providing technical assistance to coordination mechanisms, developing 14 national strategies, awareness-raising activities and stakeholder engagement. The overall objective has been to ensure that African LDCs are well prepared to leverage the opportunities presented by the trading bloc.

What is the AfCFTA? Established by the African Union, the AfCFTA is the world's largest free trade area by number of countries. It seeks to create a single market for goods and services across 54 of the 55 African Union member states. The bloc's objective is to reduce tariffs by 90%, eliminate trade barriers and facilitate the free movement of goods, services and investments across the continent.

EIF support by thematic area

Strategy development and implementation

The EIF InFa supported countries to develop national strategies to integrate into and benefit from, the AfCFTA. These included **Burkina Faso, Chad, Ethiopia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Madagascar, Mozambique, Senegal, Sierra Leone** and **Uganda**, among others. The support

also covered the mainstreaming of AfCFTA priorities in the DTIS Action Matrix in the **Central African Republic**; support to the government's Private Sector Development and Youth Employment working group mechanism in **Rwanda**; and the formulation of a maritime transport competitiveness strategy in **Togo**.

Support to negotiation and ratification

The EIF InFa also supported countries to build their capacity and prepare for the negotiations to integrate into the trading bloc. This included facilitating national AfCFTA committee meetings in **Malawi, Mali, Niger and São Tomé and Príncipe**, among others; drafting goods offers and ratification of the trade agreement in **Comoros**; as well as supporting ratification processes in **Mauritania** and **Mozambique**.

Awareness-raising

Another important initiative is to create awareness about the rules of the trading bloc, their domestication and the trading opportunities available to the private sector. The support ranged from the development of communication strategies to organizing stakeholder engagement workshops in **Liberia, South Sudan** and **The Gambia**, among others.

Protocols and initiatives

Countries were also assisted in implementing the Guided Trade Initiative and specific protocols on Women in Trade and Digital Trade. These countries included **Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Lesotho** and **The Gambia**. **Tanzania** was supported to conduct a cost-benefit analysis on its implementation and draft two project proposals to mobilize resources to support women- and youth-led small businesses to benefit from the trade bloc.



Country cases

Sierra Leone

 The EIF InFa project was designed to facilitate Sierra Leone's effective integration into the global, continental and regional trading systems, including its engagement in the AfCFTA and the ECOWAS Trade Liberalization Scheme.

Using 80% of a USD 100,000 grant from the EIF InFa in 2024, Sierra Leone's Ministry of Trade and Industry sought to enhance private sector participation, particularly for women-led small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), in cross-border trade. Some 300 women-led SMEs were trained to engage in the AfCFTA Guided Trade Initiative and the ECOWAS Trade Liberalization Scheme, in addition to training 250 officials from trade-related institutions. Institutional linkages were also established across ECOWAS member states to facilitate regional trade collaboration.

The effort is starting to bear fruit. At least 20 more private sector entities have expressed interest in exporting to the ECOWAS and AfCFTA trading blocs, a 25% year-on-year increase. Three trading companies were selected to facilitate exports as intermediaries between local producers and regional buyers.

Export clearance times have improved and there has been a 35% increase in inquiries from private sector entities about regional and continental trading opportunities. Sierra Leone officials are now better able to align national trade laws with AfCFTA protocols, particularly the Trade in Goods Protocol. Trade-related legal frameworks have also been aligned with continental trade agreements.

Officials planned a benchmarking trip to neighboring **The Gambia**, which successfully developed an agribusiness-focused trade-related climate finance proposal with EIF support. The study tour is expected to provide valuable insights for developing a project proposal on the AfCFTA and food security in Sierra Leone and secure international funding to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change on agriculture and trade.

« The Enhanced Integrated Framework has played a critical role in developing Sierra Leone's trade capacity, from laying foundational structures for trade facilitation to supporting our integration into the WTO, AfCFTA and other preferential trade agreements. As we look to the future, the Ministry is keen to be included in Phase Three of the EIF programme to unlock targeted implementation of key action plans in national trade strategies and support inclusive trade-led growth for sustainable development goals.

H.E. Mr Alpha Ibrahim Sesay, Minister of Trade and Industry, Sierra Leone. »

Madagascar

 Madagascar's integration into AfCFTA has been facilitated by the EIF. Through a comprehensive approach involving public and private stakeholder engagement, workshops and leveraging existing studies, the EIF has played a pivotal role in shaping Madagascar's readiness to participate in this transformative continental trade bloc. Throughout this process, the NIU supported key activities, including the preparation of workshops on the national AfCFTA Strategy development (July 2024) and validation (September 2024). The NIU also ensured that studies supported by its past projects, such as one on the impact of trade agreements and another analyzing non-tariff barriers and their relevance to the AfCFTA, informed Madagascar's National AfCFTA Strategy, enabling informed decision-making and robust policy frameworks.

As a direct result of the EIF's involvement:

- Madagascar now has a validated national AfCFTA strategy, serving as a roadmap for integration into the continental market.
- The country has developed a national communication strategy to support this integration.

- The studies supported by the EIF were essential inputs for developing the AfCFTA Strategy. They also inform other trade policies and strategies, including Madagascar's Fourth Trade Policy Review.

Due to its key role in this process, the NIU is increasingly being regarded as a cornerstone institution in the country's trade development efforts, ensuring sustained progress and collaboration.



Participants engage in discussions during an AfCFTA Workshop in Atsinanana Region, Madagascar, July 2024.

Uganda



In Uganda, the NIU supported two meetings of the National Monitoring Committee on Elimination of Non-Tariff Barriers with the following objectives:

- Fast-track the elimination of non-tariff barriers captured in the Tripartite Non-Tariff Barriers Reporting System of the East African Community (EAC), the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa and the Southern African Development Community and now the AfCFTA. Three barriers reported by Kenya and one by Tanzania were eliminated after these meetings.
- Finalize input on memorandum of understanding (MOU) harmonizing quality marks, standards and testing procedures for produce exported from Uganda to South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. These were finalized and await signing.
- Make input into the Draft EAC Non-Tariff Barriers Elimination Act Regulations. Uganda's comments were shared with the EAC Secretariat for inclusion in the Act.

Supporting the LDCs' bilateral trade engagements

In November 2024, in Dili, **Timor-Leste**, the EIF supported the first round of Bilateral Investment Treaty negotiations with Indonesia. The meeting laid the groundwork for a legally binding treaty that fosters sustainable investment and long-term economic collaboration between both countries. The treaty would also ensure mutual economic benefits through clearly defined investment protections, dispute resolution mechanisms and enhanced economic cooperation.

In **Cambodia**, the NIU is leading key bilateral and regional free trade agreement negotiations and the implementation of economic and technical cooperation. Currently, the NIU leads the economic cooperation chapter negotiations with Korea, China and the United Arab Emirates. It is also participating in negotiating enhanced trade deals between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), India and Canada. The NIU has also implemented technical assistance provided

under economic collaboration with Australia and New Zealand, as well as Cambodia's Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership.

In **Ethiopia**, the NIU supported the Ethiopia-Djibouti bilateral trade forum held in Djibouti in May 2024 to discuss trade relations between the two countries during the half-year performance of the 16th Joint Ministerial Commission. Discussions explored ways to boost the export of commodities from Ethiopia.

In **Mozambique**, the NIU supported the Ministry of Industry and Commerce's engagement in a partnership dialogue with the EU in May 2024. This was the first dialogue held under the Samoa Agreement, in force since January 2024, which offers a new legal framework for the relationship between the EU and the 79 member countries of the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States, of which Mozambique is a member.

In **Madagascar**, the EIF InFa supported Madagascar's engagement in the US African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA). Seventy-five participants, who included 50 women, attended workshops in Antananarivo in August and in Toamasina in October 2024 to learn about export opportunities offered by the AGOA. The EIF supported the implementation of Madagascar's National AGOA Strategy action plan for 2024, including diversification of handicrafts, cocoa and essential oil exports to the USA, as well as developing communication tools. With EIF support, the strategy is being revised with participation from the public, private sector and civil society organizations, guided by recommendations made at the 21st AGOA Forum in July 2024.

In **Bhutan**, the EIF InFa supported the strengthening of bilateral trade relations with India. Through the EIF InFa, the NIU provided partial budgetary support to host the Commerce Secretary Level Meeting between the Royal Government of Bhutan and the Government of India in September 2024 to promote bilateral trade ties. India is the largest single trading partner for Bhutan. The meeting allowed both sides to engage in wide-ranging discussions on all aspects of the bilateral trade partnership including measures to further strengthen cross-border infrastructure, enhance connectivity and facilitate trade between the two countries. Notable outcomes from the meeting included:

- Notification from the Government of India on the inclusion of Hatisar and Darranga as additional Land Custom Stations for the export of areca nut from Bhutan. This will greatly benefit areca nut growers located near these two new entry points by reducing transportation costs and enabling quicker access to the India markets.
- The Darranga Land Custom Station was also accredited to export food products from Bhutan. This will facilitate the smoother flow of food items export and reduce trade barriers, particularly benefitting the food and related product producers in the eastern region of Bhutan.
- India agreed to deploy the Plant Quarantine Inspection Service at Darranga.





03

Contribution to sustainable and inclusive trade

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At a glance

2025 EIF InFa target:

Environment-focused actions increase positively compared to the baseline of **86**.

Gender-focused actions increase positively compared to the baseline of **114**.

2024 EIF InFa result:

101 environment-focused actions (15 in 2024).

125 gender-focused actions (11 in 2024).

How the EIF does it: The EIF supports sustainable and inclusive trade mainstreaming. The EIF Phase Two vision statement, “Inclusive trade for better lives” highlighted the importance of inclusive and sustainable trade within the EIF partnership. This was further operationalized in the EIF Phase Two Strategic Framework, which defined poverty, gender and environment as cross-cutting priority themes that needed to be monitored. The EIF has been supporting the financing of concrete gender and climate change actions in the LDCs and EIF Phase Two had a dedicated special programme focused on women’s economic empowerment – the Empower Women, Power Trade initiative. The EIF InFa has continued in the same spirit as EIF Phase Two, by supporting the mainstreaming of gender and climate change actions.

Investing in women's economic empowerment

The EIF InFa supported **Lesotho, Liberia** and **The Gambia** to organize national consultations and validations on the AfCFTA Protocol on Women and Youth in Trade. The Protocol aims to enhance the involvement of women and youth within the free trade area.

It outlines general provisions, objectives and guidelines focused on affirmative action, eliminating discrimination and promoting equality and inclusiveness. It specifies the roles and responsibilities of State Parties in facilitating trade for women and youth, including access to finance, capacity-building, digital trade and protection against harassment.

The Protocol represents a comprehensive effort to integrate women and youth into the trade framework of the bloc, emphasizing empowerment, equal opportunity and economic participation. The AfCFTA is the first trade agreement with an autonomous and binding legal instrument on issues of women and youth traders.

In other examples of country-level support, in **Rwanda** and **The Gambia**, the EIF InFa supported national consultations on the Protocol and, in **Senegal**, the EIF InFa supported the country's participation in the negotiations leading to its adoption.

Making trade sustainable

The LDCs are home to around 1.3 billion people, and while they have contributed minimally to greenhouse gas emissions, they have suffered the brunt of climate-related disasters over the last 50 years. This includes 70% of climate-related deaths, according to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Only five years are left to meet the SDGs and achieve trade-related gains while maintaining the Paris Agreement target of limiting global temperature rise to below 1.5° Celsius. Trade is a crucial tool for securing development and climate objectives for the LDCs. However, some unilateral climate policy measures can create negative spillover effects, dubbed the “green squeeze”. There are mitigating opportunities in supplying new markets; future-proofing investments in green productive capacity and better aligning the flow of climate finance with other investments in productive capacity, especially for the LDCs.

Environmental considerations are central in trade-related cooperation. AfT is essential, given that accessing funding is one of the biggest hurdles that the LDCs face in formulating and implementing their national adaptation plans and following up on their Nationally Determined Contributions.

Informing climate finance

Some of the EIF's interventions in supporting climate-resilient development include organizing climate-related dialogues; ensuring that climate financing is informed by trade considerations; and addressing environmental challenges affecting key sectors, such as ecotourism, fisheries and honey production.

« Climate crisis is not a national topic or challenge – it's a global challenge. It's instrumental that we advance cooperation and development for climate transition around the globe. Specifically looking at the LDCs, Sweden has a ground for cooperation that focuses on better living conditions for people living in poverty.

H.E. Ms Romina Pourmokhtari, Minister for Climate and Environment, Sweden, speaking at COP29 in Azerbaijan in November 2024, at the side event organized by the EIF, ODI Global and the International Institute for Environment and Development.

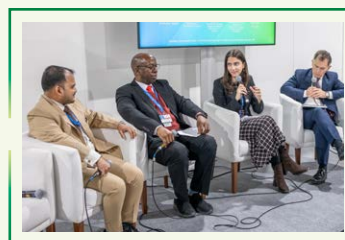


Incorporating climate considerations into existing work

- At the Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC (COP29) in Azerbaijan in November 2024, the EIF organized a side event under the theme “Advancing a just transition and securing new opportunities for the LDCs”. The session highlighted practical entry points within the global green transition to secure new market opportunities for the LDCs. Organized in partnership with ODI Global and the International Institute for Environment and Development, this important event benefited from the presence of H.E. Ms Romina Pourmokhtari, Minister for Climate and Environment, Sweden; Dr Douty Chibamba, Permanent Secretary in Zambia’s Ministry of Green Economy and Environment; and Mr Sanish Kulkarni from the Presidency of World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA).
- The EIF has increased the capacity to better incorporate environmental analysis into the most recent generation of analytical work, such as DTISs. For example, the DTIS Update in **Zambia**, published in 2024, includes a dedicated chapter on trade and climate change. The EIF is also finalizing a quick guide for including climate issues in future DTISs.
- The EIF brought forward climate change considerations for the LDCs to wider audiences by engaging with partners through events such as the WTO’s Global Reviews of Aid for Trade and the WTO Public Forums. In 2024 at the WTO Public Forum, the EIF engaged partners in a session titled “Making Trade Part of the Solution: Climate Change in LDCs”, during which the EIF presented its guidelines on “How to Make Trade Green”.
- Near the end of EIF Phase Two, **The Gambia**, with EIF support, developed a bankable project proposal – “Green Industrialization through Special Economic Zones and Agropoles” – to seek trade-related climate finance. In 2024, during the EIF InFa, a senior-level delegation from **The Gambia** attended the Global Review of Aid for Trade with EIF support to continue this important work during follow-up bilateral meetings with

donor organizations and other permanent missions. This proposal has now been submitted to the Green Climate Fund and the Government is exploring a suitable accredited entity to work with.

- In **Haiti**, the reforestation of mangrove swamps is progressing well, building on the work from EIF Phase Two, which led to the creation of mangrove nurseries in the target communes of Anse-Rouge and Môle-Saint-Nicolas. In 2024 under the EIF InFa, 10,285 additional red mangrove seedlings (*Rhizophora mangle*) were transplanted into the field under close NIU monitoring, adding to the 5,000 seedlings moved during EIF Phase Two. The EIF InFa has closely monitored the transplantation process. Mangrove regeneration, particularly at Môle-Saint-Nicolas and Pointe-des-Mangles, will have a long-term impact on mitigating climate change by capturing carbon. This effort aligns with the revised Nationally Determined Contributions, which aim to reduce carbon emissions by 32% compared to the reference scenario. Mangroves will also protect coastal areas from natural disasters, such as cyclones and tsunamis. Additionally, coastal reforestation will positively impact climate change adaptation by restoring biodiversity, supporting the reproduction and growth of marine species and increasing fishery resources in the target communes, potentially boosting fishery production.
- In **Cambodia**, the NIU, working closely with UNDP, is coordinating the development of a Green Trade Standard roadmap. It will boost the country’s trade relations with the EU by aligning green trade standards, rules of origin and double-transformation rules.



H.E. Ms Romina Pourmokhtari, Sweden’s Minister for Climate and Environment, speaks during the EIF co-organized side event at COP29 in Azerbaijan, November 2024.



Eyes on sharks in Djibouti



Building on a project implemented under EIF Phase Two, the EIF InFa, through the National Tourism Agency (NTA) of Djibouti, continued to support sustainable tourism and the protection of natural ecosystems. It used the following approaches:

Awareness-raising campaigns: A total of 1,098 tourists were sensitized about marine fauna preservation during the whale shark migration season in the fishing communities in Arta Bay from October 2024 to January 2025. The tourists and tour operators also learned best practices for interacting with these iconic species.

"Green class" outings were also organized for young audiences to introduce them to marine ecosystems and raise awareness about their protection issues to foster an environmental culture from an early age.

Supporting behavior change: The project developed guidelines to regulate tourists' interactions with whale sharks by installing information signposts in strategic locations on Arta Beach and at the Fishing Port. The clear and accessible messages reinforce ongoing awareness efforts and contribute to establishing more responsible and environmentally respectful tourism.

Leveraging technology: An eco-friendly digital platform² was developed with support from the EIF InFa. Managed by the NTA, it facilitates the dissemination of information on local initiatives and beach products under development and promotes sustainable tourism activities in Djibouti.

Surveillance and monitoring: To protect marine ecosystems, the EIF InFa supported rigorous surveillance and control missions in key areas, including Arta Bay and Moucha and Maskali islands, to assess the state of the environment and ensure compliance with regulations. Regular controls show the resolve of the authorities to manage coastal resources sustainably, offer a platform for practical recommendations to users and promote harmonious coexistence between human activities and ecosystem preservation.

Partnerships: Discussions continued around a cooperation framework between the NTA and the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development. It seeks to strengthen synergies between the two institutions, particularly in marine ecosystem preservation and enhance natural heritage through sustainable tourism. It will also ensure better coordination and complementarity of initiatives.



Click/scan here to visit the platform *Green Visit Djibouti*, supported by the EIF.



04

Promoting private sector engagement and investment in the LDCs

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At a glance

2025 EIF InFa target:

Projects leveraging private sector resources increase positively compared to the baseline of **48**.

2024 EIF InFa results:

56 EIF projects leveraging private sector resources and expertise.

How the EIF does it: The EIF works with private sector to identify trade bottlenecks, define relevant trade policies and regulations and support the implementation of trade and investment reforms. Private sector engagement spans a spectrum—from information-sharing to joint implementation, including investment partnerships. The private sector is engaged not only for their financial resources, but also for the valuable expertise and networks they bring to advance the trade and investment development priorities of LDCs.

Country cases

Ethiopia's enhanced partnership



An example of how successful proof-of-concept initiatives supported by the EIF can unlock further investment—from the private sector—generating broader opportunities and fueling sustainable development.

In Ethiopia, the impressive outcomes of the EIF's "Scaling up Quality Honey Production and Fair Trade" initiative, implemented by the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology, demonstrated a compelling proof-of-concept. The project boosted productivity, improved quality and created jobs for young people. These results played a pivotal role in attracting approximately USD 130 million in investment from the Mastercard Foundation, aimed at further enhancing honey production, increasing youth employment and strengthening biodiversity and ecosystem resilience. Of this amount, USD 80 million was secured in 2024.

Benin boost responsible investment



In Benin, the EIF is fostering knowledge sharing and empowering the private sector as a co-architect of sustainable development. A standout initiative was the September 2024 training in Bohicon City, where the Association of E-Commerce Merchants—with NIU support—equipped 40 entrepreneurs with skills in e-commerce, legal compliance and product quality.

This capacity-building momentum extended further, as the NIU convened a series of consultations with private sector actors to co-develop a national Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) policy aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals. This policy is not only a government-led framework but a product of joint ownership—designed, supported, and now being implemented with active private sector leadership.

Three companies—Eyram Service et Fils, Lolo Andoche and Orana SA—are pioneering this vision through transformative projects: turning pineapple waste into animal feed, converting textile waste into reusable goods and promoting climate-smart agriculture. These initiatives demonstrate how private enterprises can drive social and environmental change, while helping shape the very policies that guide their implementation.

With a participatory design, ongoing training, local partnerships and robust monitoring, the initiative is building a CSR system that is not only nationally owned—but privately championed.

Mozambique muscles on



The NIU conducted the MozExport Exhibition 2024 and a workshop for the launch of the external trade directory under the theme of "Promotion of Exports with an Impact on the Trade Balance" during the 59th Maputo International Fair in Ricatla, Marracuene District, Maputo Province.

A total of 128 participants were involved (28 of them women), including foreign trade operators and potential operators, mostly MSMEs. Thematic content covered the use of trade preferences; how to export to the EU; advantages and opportunities of the AfCFTA zone; using trade corridors to navigate non-tariff barriers; investment opportunities in the Arab market; how to use the Foreign Trade Directory; certification services for export; customs brokerage services; and how to use the Foreign Trade Portal.

The MozExport event provided better information to domestic and foreign exporters and other interested parties about foreign operations; promoted the country's potential and capabilities in competitive supply to regional and global markets; and increased the number of companies better informed about export procedures.



Reinforcing Rwanda's industrialization



Rwanda celebrated the 2024 Africa Industrialization Day under the theme of “Empowered Private Sector for Desired Industrialization and Structural Economic Transformation”. With support from the EIF InFa, the event provided a high-level platform to explore industrialization opportunities aligned with the AfCFTA, while also addressing business challenges.

The celebration emphasized the importance of private sector participation in driving industrial growth and served as a platform to share Rwanda's vision for sustainable economic transformation. The Minister of Trade and Industry, H.E. Mr Prudence Sebahizi, emphasized the pivotal role of industrialization in achieving Rwanda's economic goals. “This year's theme resonates deeply with *Rwanda's aspirations, highlighting the vital role of the private sector in driving industrial growth, creating jobs and shaping a sustainable future for our economy*”, he said.

The Director-General of Industry Promotion and Entrepreneurship Development at the Ministry of Trade and Industry, Mr Fred Mugabe, presented an overview of the country's updated industrial policy (2024-2034). Its vision and strategic priorities include a focus on agro-processing, textiles and apparel, pharmaceuticals, tourism and global business services; the importance of industrial parks as hubs for innovation and economic growth; and an adaptive institutional framework for fostering industrial development.

The policy aims to catalyze transformational growth by prioritizing sectors with the potential to drive exports, stimulate linkages across industries and create jobs.



On behalf of the Government of Rwanda, the Ministry of Trade and Industry acknowledges the vital support of the Enhanced Integrated Framework in making this year's Africa Industrialization Day a strategic platform to advance our national and continental industrial agenda. By empowering the private sector and aligning our efforts with the goals of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), Rwanda is strengthening its participation in Regional Value Chains (RVCs)—a critical step toward transformational, inclusive growth. The updated Industrial Policy (2024–2034) lays out a bold vision centered on innovation, job creation and sustainable economic development across key sectors, positioning Rwanda as a competitive player in Africa's integrated manufacturing and trade ecosystem.

H.E. Mr Prudence Sebahizi, Minister of Trade and Industry, Rwanda.



Laying a foundation in Lao PDR

 The NIU acts as secretariat for the Trade and Private Sector Working Group, which has a good representation of private sector actors as members. It works to build consensus on private sector development priorities and to mainstream private sector priorities into key policy and planning documents and mobilize resources for their implementation. In 2024, discussions on 12 priority business-enabling environment reforms were held with strong coordination from the NIU. The NIU also coordinates public-private dialogue under the Lao Business Forum. It brings together diverse private sector companies that engage with the Government to ensure consistent and transparent enforcement of business regulations and the dismantling of bureaucratic business barriers. It is also a space for the private sector to provide feedback on policies and draft bills affecting them, leading to better public policies. The annual Lao Business Forum, chaired by the Prime Minister, is scheduled for the end of April 2025.

« EIF support is well grounded on the principle of national ownership, which helps the Government to promote its priority to enhance productive capacity, foster a well-balanced system for international trade and achieve sustainable development in line with Lao PDR's National Socio-Economic Development Plan (2021-2025).

H.E. Dr Manothong Vongsay, Vice Minister of Industry and Commerce, Lao PDR. »



Kiribati kicks off investment initiative

 In 2024, the EIF InFa initiated the establishment of a hub-and-spoke investment platform in Kiribati, with Fiji as the hub. With the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) as the implementing partner, it seeks to strengthen the countries' ability to promote private sector investment in trade-enhancing sectors. Work done in 2024 included organizing kick-off meetings with different stakeholders, capacity-building and identifying sectors with potential, including coconut-processing, agriculture, fisheries and tourism.



Participants engage in discussions during an Investment Promotion Workshop in Kiribati organized by UNESCAP.

05

Leveraging additional resources

At a glance

2025 EIF InFa (target):

591 leveraging actions
(40 additional expected).

2024 EIF InFa (results):

611 leveraging actions
(60 additional actions in 2024).

2025 EIF InFa target:

USD 5 million leveraged
from government and
development partners.

2024 EIF InFa results:

USD 186 million leveraged
from governments and
development partners.

How the EIF does it: A key objective of the EIF is to enable LDCs to mobilize additional resources through their NIUs to support the implementation of their trade development priorities. The EIF uses a three-pronged approach, starting with institutionalizing leveraging as part of project approval to trigger counterpart funding by the beneficiary government, partner agencies and private sector actors in cash or in-kind. The NIUs are also supported to undertake different activities, such as roundtables, aimed at mobilizing additional resources from donors and development partners and the development and submission of project proposals. In addition, trade priorities defined in key documents supported by the EIF, such as DTIS Action Matrices, are mainstreamed into a country's national planning, programming and budgeting frameworks, such as the NDP, thus mobilizing resources through government allocations. The EIF InFa's performance in resource mobilization has been outstanding. The programme has successfully raised resources through co-funding of ongoing projects and by leveraging resources from development partners and national governments.

The EIF InFa's co-funding target of USD 5 million was surpassed by 45%, thanks to USD 7.2 million matched by development partners and LDC governments. The latter invested about USD 1.36 for every dollar disbursed by the EIF InFa to countries.

Impressive, still, is the amount leveraged by the NIUs from non-EIF AfT projects, which far exceeded the USD 5 million target. Thanks to the EIF InFa's support for 60 leveraging activities in

2024, the NIUs leveraged and are managing over USD 180 million worth of trade-related projects funded by development partners, including the WB, the IFAD, the EU, ITC, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit and UNDP, to implement 16 AfT projects across 11 LDCs. This was 36 times the target and 16.8 times the EIF InFa fund of USD 10.5 million as of December 2024. Therefore, for every USD 1 provided by the EIF InFa, USD 16.8 was mobilized from other development partners.



Mr Tamou Alphonse, owner of pineapple farm in Allada, Benin.



Country cases

Benin

 In 2024, the NIU secured USD 308,000 to implement a sub-component of the Regional Agricultural Market Integration Programme funded through the IFAD. This aims to stimulate regional agricultural trade to create jobs for women and youth, increase incomes and improve food security and nutrition for the rural poor. This will be achieved by improving the performance of sub-regional trade centers and cross-border transport corridors while promoting rural entrepreneurship for young people and women and fully integrating smallholders into national and sub-regional markets.

Cambodia

 Following the successful implementation of the EU's ARISE Plus project during EIF Phase Two, the NIU mobilized an additional EUR 9.9 million (about USD 10.5 million) from the EU and Germany for its second phase, the EU Global Access for Trade Expertise 2024 – 2028. The project aims at strengthening trade policy, digital economy, trade facilitation and SME trade competitiveness.



Lesotho

 Leveraging its integration within the Planning Department of the Ministry of Trade and Industry and its extensive experience in implementing EIF projects and an earlier WB Competitiveness and Financial Inclusion Project, the NIU mobilized an additional USD 16 million from the WB. The funding will support regional trade integration, particularly Lesotho's USD 80 million Integrated Transport, Trade and Logistics project.

Rwanda

 The SPIU secured USD 26 million to implement a component of a WB-funded project titled "Kigali Logistics Platform Connectivity Development Project". It aims to improve resilient and safe connectivity along the regional logistics corridors and support local and regional economic activities. It will also improve sustainability by funding core SPIU staff positions over the next six years.



South Sudan



The Ministry of Trade and Industry, through the NIU and UNDP, has forged strategic and high-impact partnerships by developing and submitting a project that successfully secured USD 5.3 million in funding from the African Development Bank to implement the “Job Creation through Youth and Women-led Micro and Small Enterprises” project set to run from 2025 to 2028. Implemented jointly by UNDP and the NIU, the project aims at significantly boosting youth’s and women’s participation in setting up and expanding enterprises, creating jobs and improving livelihoods.

« The EIF was a big part of the establishment of the National Trade Development Committee (NTDC) focused on aid-for-trade-related agendas. We have seen that through this catalytic approach from EIF, there have been positive responses from other donors contributing to the NTDC. [The committee] is fundamental to the trade development sector in Vanuatu.

Mr Brill Palmer, Trade and Development Specialist, Vanuatu Ministry of Trade and Commerce.



Comoros



In 2024, the NIU leveraged USD 275,000 from an AfT programme funded by the ITFC to support a vanilla purchasing and commercialization center in Comoros.



06

Monitoring the impacts of past EIF projects

46

At a glance

2025 EIF InFa target:

20 impact monitoring actions.

2024 EIF InFa results:

49 impact monitoring missions.

How the EIF does it: EIF InFa projects have supported 49 impact-monitoring actions across beneficiary LDCs, including missions, joint review meetings and follow-up surveys, exceeding the logframe indicator target of 20 actions. While the eight EIF InFa priority areas focus more on institutional support, this section highlights impacts from previous productive capacity interventions. They include emerging impacts related to production, exports and access to markets and jobs, among others.

Monitoring jobs created in 2024

An additional 7,135 (6,587 of whom were female) jobs were created in 2024 across six beneficiary countries. These new jobs (mostly direct, temporary and/or, permanent) were created in sectors and by MSMEs that benefited from previous EIF support, including, for example, for palm oil production in **Central African Republic**; artisanal fisheries in **Guinea-Bissau**; horticulture production in **Lesotho**; shea processing in **Mali**; mango processing in **Senegal**; and the seaweed sector in **Tanzania**.



Monitoring production volume and exports values generated in 2024

Based on impact monitoring data collected through the EIF InFa, the programme has made significant progress against its logframe targets for production volumes, export value and market access. In 2024, past project beneficiaries produced an encouraging 480,000 MT of goods. Export performance also improved, with an additional USD 158 million in goods and services exported. Furthermore,

international market access expanded, with 38 new market entry opportunities facilitated for EIF Phase Two beneficiaries. These achievements highlight the tangible impact of EIF projects in enhancing production, boosting exports and opening new markets—demonstrating the programme's effectiveness in supporting LDCs.



Country cases

Strengthening small businesses in Tanzania



This project, which ended in September 2023, aimed at enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs in the value chains of anchovy, seaweed, spices and horticulture, leading to increased revenue and market access. The impacts observed today reflect the combined effort of the EIF, the Government and other stakeholders operating in these value chains.

In the seaweed value chain in **Zanzibar**, the EIF InFa-supported monitoring exercises in 2024 found that EIF support had led to a 58% increase in seaweed production, rising from 10,531 MT in 2021 to 16,653 MT in 2023, as confirmed by the Zanzibar Statistical Abstract (2024). The project also significantly boosted yield-per-acre by over 100%, from 817 kgs in 2021 to 1,772 kgs per acre in 2024 across targeted areas. Additionally, the price of seaweed increased by between 60% and 100%, depending on the variety. It rose from approximately USD 0.22 to USD 0.37 per kg for *Spinosa* and from approximately USD 0.37 to USD 0.96 per kg for *Cottonian*, reflecting improved market opportunity and increased incomes for farmers.

In the anchovy value chain, the Zanzibar Statistical Abstract (2024) showed a 62% increase in production from 13,433 MT in 2021 to 21,827 MT in 2023. Exports also rose by about 33%, from 6,068 MT in 2021 to 8,107 MT in 2023, generating USD 4.5 million in 2023.



The monitoring team noted a significant increase in jobs created in seaweed production, which rose from 157 (81% of which were attributed to female) in 2022 to 320 (78% occupied by women and 70% youth) in 2024 in the intervention areas. In the processing value chain, 657 jobs (51% occupied by female and 25% youth) were created, with 163 specifically for youth in 2024.

Sesame in Niger



Concluded in December 2022, the project sought to enhance the competitiveness of the sesame sector by establishing a functional interprofessional organization, strengthening production, processing capacity and improving access to national, regional and international markets. An impact monitoring exercise in 2024 revealed that additional sesame production throughout the project lifecycle reached 25,000 MT in 2023, far exceeding the initial target of 10,000 MT. Products were successfully exported to four markets in 2024: Burkina Faso, China, India and Nigeria.



e-infrastructure in Bhutan



The project, which concluded in June 2022, aimed at creating a dynamic information communication technology ecosystem for trade development. It sought to accelerate access to information communication technology for targeted sectors (goods and services), improve data availability, facilitate information-sharing and enhance business opportunities through an improved electronic platform. The EIF provided catalytic support to the Food Corporation of Bhutan Limited (FCBL) to establish an online auction and a machine-grading facility for potatoes in Southern Bhutan. The facility can grade, package and store produce in the FCBL warehouse, allowing farmers to obtain receipts that can be traded online on the commodity trading platform.

The system enables farmers to grade a truck of potatoes within hours, as compared to three days earlier, ensuring better prices for the produce, including more savings for farmers up to USD 420 per truckload. The instant receipt provided enables farmers to receive payment within a day through the online platform, compared to more than a week in conventional auctions. This innovation has increased online potato trading, from 1.1MT in 2017 to 18.8 MT in 2023. Its success in Southern Bhutan has prompted the FCBL to replicate the model in central Bhutan, with support from the Government, the Global Environment Facility LDC Fund, UNDP and the Food and Agriculture Organization, amounting to about USD 900,000.



Food Corporation
Bhutan Limited, 2024
[Click/scan here for more](#)



The EIF financed Potato-grading facility in Bhutan.



07

EIF operations: Providing adaptive and impactful programming

50

2024 in figures

88% of EIF InFa logframe indicators targets were met as at December 2024.

50% reduction in the average time taken from project approval to first disbursement 25 days (in EIF Phase Two) to 12.5 days (under the EIF InFa).

How the EIF does it: The effective functioning of EIF operations is crucial to the success of impactful programming. EIF operations comprise of activities undertaken by the ES and the TFM related to financial management, monitoring and evaluation, capacity building of implementing entities, communications, partnership engagement and resource mobilization efforts which are necessary for the effective delivery of the programme. The ES and the TFM adopt flexible, adaptive and innovate approaches to ensure an efficient and effective delivery of the programme.

Communications and partnerships

2024 in figures

21 impact stories.

4 newsletters.

7 op-eds (4 on the World Economic Forum Agenda and 3 on Trade for Development News).

525 social media posts across Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, X and Youtube.

5 video interviews with LDCs and 1 animation.

22 NIUs benefiting from two capacity-building sessions on storytelling, social media strategy and writing for impact.

How the EIF does it: At the EIF, communication is more than just sharing results. It is a catalyst for impact, a means to amplify LDC voices and a tool to strengthen their ability to mobilize resources and drive change. In 2024, strategic communications remained focused on showcasing LDC-led progress and achievements in trade and sustainable development, sharing the impact of the EIF partnership and supporting the LDCs in strengthening their own communications to enhance visibility and engagement.

Building on this commitment, a strong emphasis was placed on capacity-building at the national level. One key example was targeted training on storytelling, social media strategies and writing for impact held for the NIUs in the fall of 2024, with two separate sessions in English and French. Participants from 22 countries attended the training, which was open to all LDCs. They were supported to better communicate trade results and engage stakeholders to increase their national and international visibility.

Throughout the year, LDC trade stories were brought to life through the publication of 21 in-depth impact stories documenting the EIF's achievements and challenges in each country, while op-eds, mostly co-authored with EIF partners, including LDC ministers, provided additional perspectives on trade and development.

Quarterly newsletters gave a comprehensive overview of trade-related developments in the LDCs, collating and curating news as well as EIF programme updates and insights from partners. These efforts were reinforced by regular engagement on social media platforms, including Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, X and Youtube, to expand outreach and visibility. In addition to showcasing results, these communications products also aided the LDCs in their resource mobilization efforts.

Beyond storytelling, communications also played a key role in enhancing donor visibility and strengthening the EIF partnership at large. With the conclusion of EIF Phase Two and the launch of the EIF InFa, donor contributions were instrumental in ensuring continued support for LDC trade. To maximize their visibility, the ES worked with the WTO to amplify these announcements through its news and social media platforms.

The year 2024 also saw EIF-led conversations on global key issues. The collaboration with the WTO in March 2024 for International Women's Month highlighted the role of trade in women's economic empowerment, while a session at the WTO Public Forum in September explored how trade can be a solution for climate challenges in the LDCs.

Partnerships

At the heart of the EIF's approach is a commitment to partnerships, working alongside the LDCs and global partners to achieve common goals. In 2024, the EIF worked closely with its core Partner Agencies the International Monetary Fund, ITC, the UN Conference on Trade and Development, the UNDP, the UN Industrial Development Organization, the UN World Tourism Organization, the World Bank and the WTO – while also engaging with additional strategic and implementing partners.

Under the EIF InFa, projects were initiated in collaboration with WAIPA to support investment promotion in **Bangladesh**, the **Democratic Republic of Congo**, **Malawi** and **Vanuatu**. In Kiribati and **Tuvalu**, UNESCAP was working to enhance investment readiness and trade capacity.

UNDP is leading initiatives in **Lesotho**, **Solomon Islands**, **South Sudan**, **Tanzania** and **Tuvalu**, focusing on trade facilitation and private sector development. In **Liberia**, in 2024, the EIF InFa support project was implemented through ITC. The work in Liberia focuses on supporting its integration into the AfCFTA, leveraging additional resources, including further stimulation to the growth of the tourism industry, and building the capacity of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry through training on monitoring and fiduciary management.

In **Somalia**, the EIF worked with the Eastern and Southern Africa Management Institute – TRAPCA, which facilitated a comprehensive capacity-building initiative to modernize and streamline the country's customs procedures.

In 2024, the EIF also continued its collaboration with other strategic partners, such as ITFC, the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and the Commonwealth Secretariat. These partnerships are critical for expanding the reach of EIF initiatives, enhancing technical expertise and amplifying advocacy for LDC priorities at regional and global levels. In 2024, this included knowledge exchanges, such as the publication of a Commonwealth Secretariat op-ed on the EIF Trade for Development News platform, which examined strategies to reverse the decline in LDCs' services exports post-pandemic. In addition, the EIF collaborated with the ITFC and the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) for greater results in the reverse linkage project between **Guinea** and Tunisia on enhancing the value chain for exporting the former's agricultural products. The EIF contributed USD 196,680, with the ITFC and the IsDB contributing an additional USD 300,000 and USD 280,000, respectively.



Commonwealth
Secretariat op-ed
[Click/scan here for more](#)

Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL)

2024 in figures

79 project-monitoring missions in 2024 (16 field and 63 virtual missions).

6 joint ES and TFM Portfolio Review Meetings organized.

2 impact evaluations of past EIF projects in Togo and Solomon Islands completed.

Over **400** participants completed EIF e-learning courses on trade mainstreaming and M&E hosted on the WTO e-learning platform.

How the EIF does it: The EIF's MEL approach is built upon its global theory of change and logframe, alongside the ES annual work plan, which clearly defines the indicators for monitoring. The ES utilizes its management information systems to track portfolio progress and assess risk levels. Simultaneously, the master database captures portfolio results, feeding them directly into the global logframe to determine progress toward established targets.

Learning is a cornerstone of the EIF's strategy, fostered through project and programme-led evaluations, dedicated studies and peer-to-peer learning events. Furthermore, the capacity-building of LDC staff in M&E and general project management significantly strengthens programme delivery and enhances skills within these countries.

Monitoring

Throughout 2024, the EIF diligently monitored its projects and operations through work plan implementation surveys, monitoring missions and joint portfolio reviews.

Work plan implementation surveys: These provided the ES with the most recent data on the activity implementation rate of each project, allowing for the calculation of an average programme implementation rate. In 2024, the ES launched 10 monthly surveys.

Monitoring missions: Whether physical or virtual, these meetings involved the ES Country Coordinator, the TFM Regional Portfolio Manager and the project Implementing team from the NIU or EIF Main Implementing Entity (MIE). The missions aimed at comprehensively reviewing each project, focusing on work plan implementation rates, budget utilization, progress and financial reporting, challenges and recommendations. In 2024, the EIF organized 79 monitoring missions (16 field and 63 virtual missions).

Joint portfolio reviews: Organized jointly by the ES and the TFM at least every two months, these meetings reviewed all projects under implementation and closure. They focused on the overall state of the EIF portfolio, identifying specific risks and challenges and defining actions to address them. In 2024, six such meetings were held.

Evaluation and learning

In 2024, the EIF continued to support its evaluation function, ensuring the independence, objectivity and quality of all external evaluations at the programme and project levels.

The ES ensured the quality and objectivity of 20 end-of-project evaluations and the quality of 46 project completion reports by providing reviews and peer reviews of the draft documents.

At programme level, the ES commissioned two impact evaluations – the impact assessment of the EIF tourism project in the **Solomon Islands** and the soya value chain development project in **Togo**. The ES also continued to monitor the implementation of recommendations from the EIF Phase Two programme evaluation. A review conducted in November 2024 found that 100% of the recommendations had been implemented.

In 2024, the EIF continued to promote learning across its wider partnerships, highlighting programme achievements, results and challenges. Findings and lessons from two thematic studies commissioned in 2023, but finalized in 2024 – the Assessment of Climate Change and Other Environmental Dimensions in the DTISs and the Assessment of the EIF's Empower Women, Power Trade initiative – were communicated in two public events.

Findings from the DTISs and Climate Change study were communicated at the September 2024 WTO Public Forum during an EIF session titled “Making Trade Part of the Solution: Climate Change in the LDCs”, while the findings, recommendations and lessons learned from the Empower Women, Power Trade initiative assessment were communicated at a co-hosted event with the Trade and Gender Unit of the WTO during the 2024 WTO International Women's Day celebrations.

Various EIF InFa projects take advantage of cross-country learning opportunities. For instance, **Sierra Leone** learning from **The Gambia** with regards to trade-related climate finance opportunities; **Somalia** learning from various NIU models; and **Kiribati** and **Tuvalu** learning from **Vanuatu** and vice versa, with their investment development projects implemented by UNESCAP and WAIPA, respectively.

Capacity-building

In 2024, the EIF continued to prioritize the technical capacity-building of LDC officials. As in previous years, capacity-building was delivered through training workshops, e-learning courses, capacity needs assessments and LDC staff secondments/internships.

Training workshops: The ES organized two workshops for 68 officials (19% of whom were

female) from NIUs and MIEs, during which the new EIF InFa progress-reporting template and the impact monitoring checklist aimed at guiding countries on how to monitor the impacts of past EIF projects were introduced. An assessment revealed that 86% of participants found the training “very useful” for their work.

E-learning courses: The EIF's capacity-building efforts were extended beyond the LDCs through e-learning courses developed and hosted on the WTO e-learning platform. The platform – a public good of sorts – offers four introductory and intermediate courses focusing on project evaluation, management and trade mainstreaming. Monitoring data indicated that 405 attendees (41% of whom were female) from 84 countries completed the courses in 2024. Since their development, over 1,350 attendees from 136 countries have completed these courses.

Capacity needs assessment: As part of the training workshops, the EIF launched a needs assessment for the NIUs to identify areas requiring further capacity-building in 2025, in anticipation of a new EIF phase. It identified five priority themes: project monitoring and reporting; project, evaluation and management; project design and management; results-based management approach; and digital communications.

Secondments/internships: The ES hosted LDC government officials from **Benin, Bhutan, Myanmar** and **Uganda** as part of the WTO's Netherlands Talent Programme. These officials contributed to, and learned about, EIF processes while preparing technical briefs on the impact and evolution of trade mainstreaming in their respective countries' NDPs. They also contributed to compiling studies supported by EIF projects under EIF Phase Two; capturing and collating impact stories from narrative reports; and following up on EIF Phase Two project implementations in their countries. Since returning to their respective countries and home ministries, these officials continue to support the EIF programme as EIF ambassadors.

Risk management

Risk management continued to be a strong focus of the EIF programme in 2024, building on the mechanisms set up during EIF Phase Two.

Regular portfolio reviews, conducted jointly by the ES and the TFM, were a key part of the risk management process. They provided a structured avenue for reviewing projects under implementation and closure. During the six reviews held in 2024, risk levels for projects were assessed, and mitigation and escalation measures were determined accordingly.

Risk and issues Management Taskforce: This joint effort, established by the ES and the TFM, systematically reassessed, optimized and updated the risk management framework and processes at the programme and country levels. In 2024, three meetings were held addressing several key risks, particularly those related to the closure of EIF Phase Two.

Among the risks focused on throughout 2024 were staff departures at the programme level and the sustainability of high-risk NIUs. Some risks were significantly reduced through the EIF InFa – for example, the risk of reduced engagement of the LDCs as EIF Phase Two wound down. The risk of non-closure of projects was also managed by the timely escalation of problematic projects. Guidelines were developed to establish a comprehensive and clear framework for closing problematic projects within EIF Phase Two; they are also applicable to the EIF InFa. The EIF Board approved the guidelines in October 2024. They include criteria for identifying projects with closure problems; support measures; a process for escalation and closure; and documentation of lessons learned to inform future project planning. All EIF Phase Two projects were effectively closed by 31 December 2024.



VfM under the EIF InFa

2024 in figures

Economy

26% drop in the approved ES operational budget for 2024 compared to 2023.

68% drop in the approved EIF Global Activities budget for 2024 compared to 2023.

Efficiency

Over 60% drop in the average time from project approval to MOU signature under the EIF InFa 2024 compared to EIF Phase Two.

Effectiveness

88% of EIF InFa logframe indicators have been achieved.

How the EIF does it: The EIF's approach to VfM is guided by the EIF VfM framework, which is built around the four "Es": Economy, Efficiency, Effectiveness and Equity. A VfM matrix, regularly updated and reported to the EIF Board, tracks key indicators to ensure accountability and transparency.

The EIF maximizes VfM by ensuring sound financial management, optimizing procurement practices, streamlining operational processes, and closely monitoring impact to enhance effectiveness. The framework also prioritizes inclusivity, ensuring that no-one is left behind in programme implementation and benefits.

Economy

The approved ES operational and EIF Global Activities budget for 2024 reflected the winding-down of EIF Phase Two. The approved operational budget of USD 2.82 million was 26.12% lower than in 2023. An even greater reduction of 67.7% was applied to the approved EIF Global Activities budget, dropping from USD 577,250 in 2023 to USD 248,577. The ES undertook cost-effective measures in all operational aspects, from travel to reduced office space to optimizing human resources. For example, three vacant staff positions from 2023 were not replaced in 2024, leading to a reduction of at least 19% in fixed-term staff costs compared to 2023. Also, the costs of temporary staff were reduced by almost 60% in 2024 compared to 2023.

The approved 2024 TFM budget of USD 2.34 million was 3.4% lower than in 2023. Despite a substantial 32% reduction in general operating expenses (non-staff costs) – mostly attributed to a 58% cut in the travel budget – the 2024 budget showed a modest 5% increase in staff costs compared to 2023. This was driven by adjustments in the UN Staff Proforma Cost for 2024.

Efficiency

The EIF undertook 79 monitoring missions (16 field and 63 virtual) in 2024 to support project implementation. More than 75% of these were joint ES and TFM missions to ensure better VfM. Compared to 2021, the number of monitoring missions has more than doubled and shows the increased technical support provided to the EIF Countries. This support was reflected in a significant reduction in the average time between project conception and final submission, from 18 months in 2017 and four months in 2021 to less than 1.5 month in 2024 under the EIF InFa. Similarly, the average time required by the ES and the TFM to appraise and approve project proposals was reduced to less than four working days in 2024. The time between project approval and the signing of MOU also decreased, from 55.6 working days under EIF Phase Two to 21 working days under the EIF InFa.

Effectiveness

Performance data from 2024 indicate that 92% of EIF InFa logframe indicators have met or exceeded their 2025 target. In 2024, 11 NIUs improved their integration score, exceeding the target of 5 NIUs by over 100%. All the countries annual project reports were submitted in time for the data to be captured in the 2024 EIF Annual Report. In addition, the quality of the narrative reports submitted by the NIUs and the MIEs improved.

Equity

Under the EIF InFa in 2024, 42 projects were approved in 41 countries, exceeding the target of 40 countries. Cross-cutting issues like environment, investment, digitalization, disabilities, youth and gender were at the heart of the programme and were integrated into 85 project activities. In 2024, 3,344 women benefited from institutional capacity-building, and 1,454 women were trained in value chain practices. The EIF InFa has also ensured support to fragile and conflict-affected countries, even in contexts of non-existing or dormant NIUs, such as in **the Democratic Republic of the Congo** and **Somalia**, where the EIF is supporting capacity-building towards WTO accession negotiations through TRAPCA and investment promotion through WAIPA, respectively. In **South Sudan**, the EIF, through UNDP, continues to support improvements in trade policy and regulatory framework and supports the implementation of EAC and AfCFTA national strategies.



2024 fiduciary snapshot

In 2024, the TFM ensured sound fiduciary management and oversaw both the EIF Phase Two's conclusion and the EIF InFa's management. Given the closure efforts for EIF Phase Two, this fiduciary snapshot covers the last reporting period for this phase, ending in the first and second quarters of 2025. This timeline allows for a more complete and accurate coverage of EIFTF-related aspects during the critical closure period of EIF Phase Two and the continued progress under the EIF InFa.

1. Total contributions received in the EIFTF (cumulative)

- EIF Phase Two: USD 143.59¹ million
- EIF InFa (as of the end of 2024): USD 10.00² million

Table 1. Donor support to EIF Phase Two

Category	Donor	Amount (USD)
Donor contributions	Australia	3,965,522
	Denmark	12,009,574
	Estonia	101,537
	European Commission	11,550,748
	Finland	13,424,322
	France	4,018,307
	Germany	8,332,890
	Japan	197,321
	Korea, Republic of	1,000,000
	Luxembourg	5,495,219
	Netherlands	472,255
	Norway	22,414,346
	Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of	4,000,000
	Sweden	16,259,460
	Switzerland	2,000,000
	United Kingdom	22,678,462
Donor contributions sub-total		127,919,962
Interest income and reserve refund	Interest income – Allocated by UNOPS	3,003,364
	Interest income – Refunds by the MIEs	151,858
	UNOPS excess reserves	334,584
Interest income and reserve refund sub-total		3,489,806
EIF Phase One balance	EIF Phase One balance	12,181,925
EIF Phase One balance sub-total		12,181,925
Grand total		143,591,693

¹ Including USD 12.18 million as EIF Phase One balance and USD 3.16 million interest earned by UNOPS and refunded by the MIEs.

² Including USD 83,000 interest earned.

Table 2. EIF InFa contribution – commitments and receipts as of 31 December 2024

Category	Donor	Commitments	Receipts
Donor' contributions	Finland	758,397	758,397
	Liechtenstein	46,189	46,189
	Norway	1,877,047	1,402,393
	Sweden	2,561,427	2,561,427
	United Arab Emirates	4,000,000	3,996,736
	United Kingdom	1,276,661	1,155,154
Donors' Contributions Total		10,519,720	9,920,296
Interest income	Interest income – Allocated by UNOPS	83,805	83,805
Interest Income Total		83,805	83,805
Grand Total		10,603,526	10,004,101

2. How funds were used (2024 disbursement breakdown for EIF Phase Two and the EIF InFa)

USD 143.59 million in funding was mobilized to support EIF Phase Two. Of this amount, USD 141.87 million (98.9%) was allocated to the EIF Phase Two programme, as per Table 3. The balance of USD 1.72 million (1.2%) was fully accounted for,

with USD 1.53 million (1.06%) transferred to the EIF InFa, as agreed upon by the EIF Donors and USD 200,000 (0.14%) refunded to EIF Donors based on their preference.

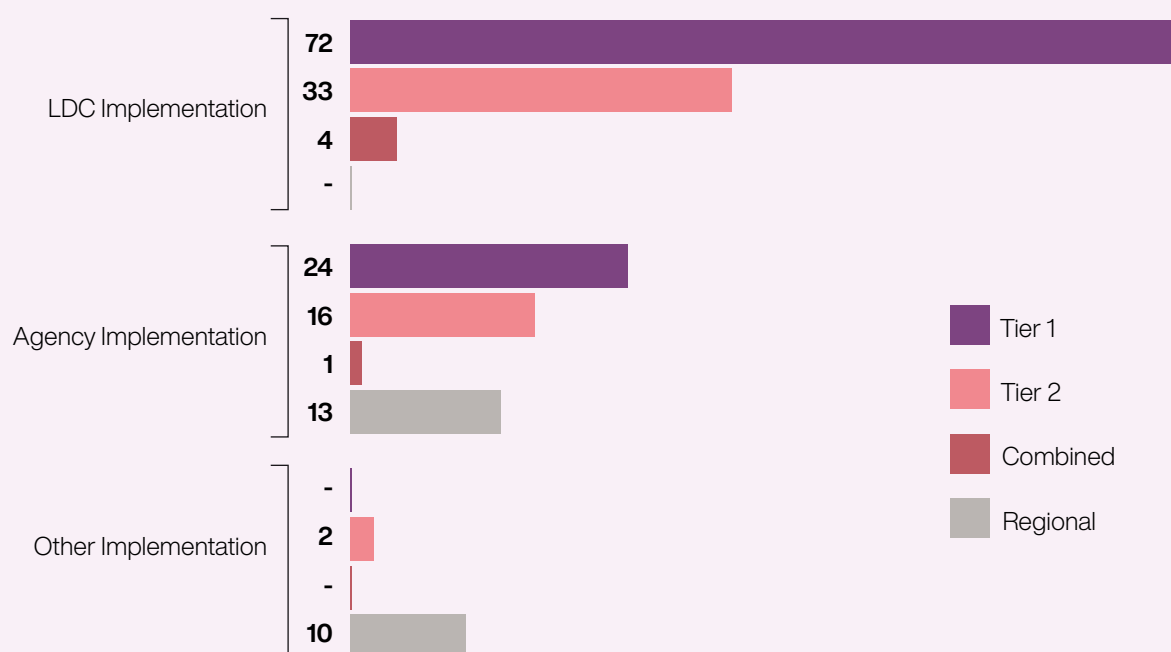
Table 3. EIF Phase Two overall allocations

Report Category	Project Type	Total (in million USD)
LDC implementation	Tier 1	20.69
	Tier 2	37.27
	Combined	6.74
Total		64.69
Agency implementation	Tier 1	6.59
	Tier 2	4.55
	Combined	2.10
	Regional	5.62
Total		18.86
Other implementation	Tier 2	1.61
	Regional	5.33
Total		6.94
EIF Global Activities		5.06
ES technical support		21.28
ES administrative support		9.12
TFM*		14.86
UNOPS transaction fee (0.75%)		1.06
Grand total allocations		141.87

* Inclusive of 6% management fee.



EIF Phase Two project per category and implementation type (Number of projects)



Of the 175 completed projects under EIF Phase Two, the majority – 109 projects (62%) – were implemented directly by the LDCs, reflecting strong country ownership and alignment with the EIF's core principle of national ownership. Agency-implemented projects accounted for 54 (31%) of the total, including a notable share of regional

initiatives, highlighting the strategic role of technical partners in supporting trade-related interventions. The remaining 12 projects (7%) fell under other implementation arrangements, primarily focused on regional activities, highlighting the EIF's flexibility in delivery modalities to address cross-border and multi-country priorities.

Table 4. EIF InFa fund allocations and disbursements (as of 31 December 2024)

Report Category	Project Type	Allocations (in million USD)	Disbursed by the TFM
LDC implementation	EIF InFa support	4.00	2.48
Agency implementation	EIF InFa support	0.76	0.54
Other implementation	EIF InFa support	0.52	0.30
EIF Global Activities		0.06	0.06
ES administrative support		1.13	0.04
ES technical support		2.63	0.09
TFM		2.00	0.00
UNOPS transaction fee (0.75%)		0.08	0.03
Total		11.18	3.54

3. Financial oversight and assurance

The following dashboard summarizes core elements of the EIF's financial oversight



Project external audit

Completed annual audits of the EIFTF and projects are conducted.



Risk mitigation

In place and updated based on institutional and project-level risks.



Project closure

Completed the closure of the 175 EIF Phase Two projects.

Documenting/archiving the closures, capturing the lessons learned and updating the Knowledge Hub.



Data transparency

Timely access.

Tracking via the EIF MIS and Knowledge Hub.



08

Annexes

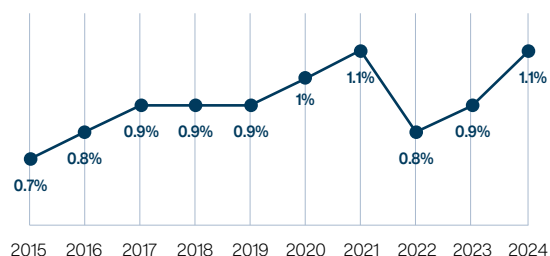
62



Results by indicator¹

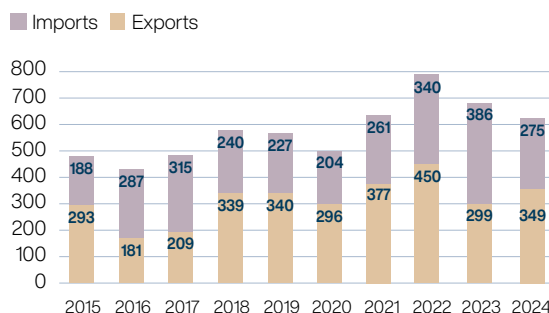
Impact-level indicators

A – LDC share of non-oil exports (%)



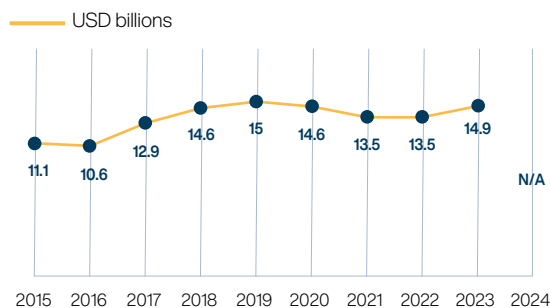
Source: WTO Secretariat.

B – Value of trade from the LDCs (USD billion)



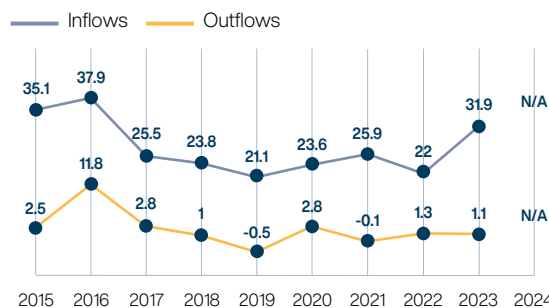
Source: WTO Secretariat.

C – AfT flows to the LDCs



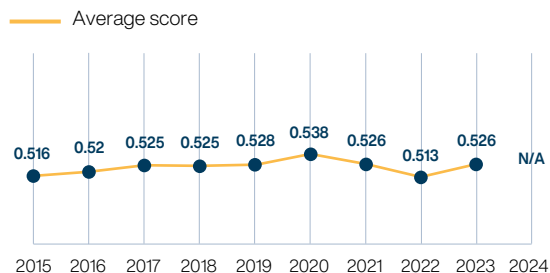
Source: WTO Secretariat/OECD.

D – Foreign Direct Investment in the LDCs (USD billion)



Source: World Investment Report, UNCTAD.

E – Human Development Index in the LDCs



Source: Human Development Report 2020, UNDP.

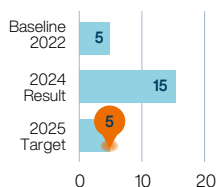
¹ The EIF InFa baseline is set against 2022 results, hence excludes 2023 results that were later published in the End-of-EIF Phase Two Report. Consequently, the cumulative 2024 EIF InFa results would for most indicators be lower compared to the results presented in the End-of-EIF Phase Two, 2023 Annual Report.



Outcome 1 – Improved trade environment conducive for inclusive and sustainable growth of the LDCs

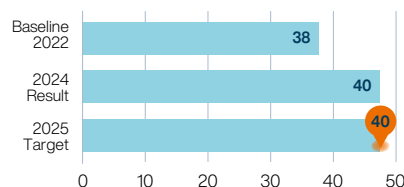
1.a – Number of additional national development plans integrating trade

Actual Programme Target



1.b – Number of EIF (InFa) Countries with effective trade coordination mechanisms

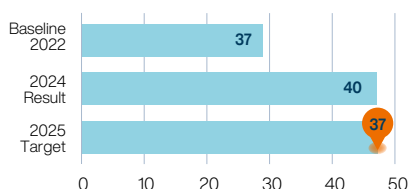
Actual Programme Target



164 Coordination meetings supported in 2024

1.c – Number of EIF (InFa) Countries with sector-specific strategies integrating trade

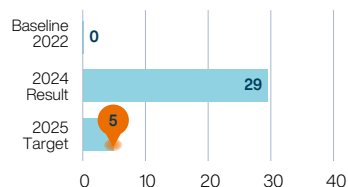
Actual Programme Target



8 new sector strategies drafted in 2024

1.d – Number of EIF (InFa) Countries demonstrating progress in integration into global and regional trading systems

Actual Programme Target



The EIF supported 61 actions supporting bilateral, regional and WTO trade engagements in 2024

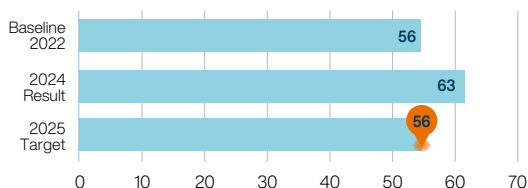
64



Output 1.1 – Improved evidence-based policy and regulatory frameworks for trade and investment

1.1.a – Number of quality trade policies formulated and updated with support from the EIF

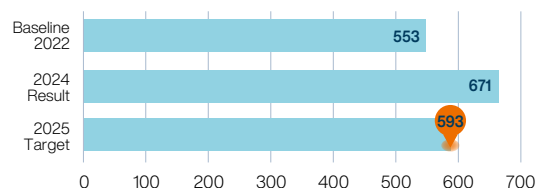
Actual Programme Target



7 new policies supported by the EIF InFa in 2024

1.1.b – Number of actions undertaken for improved legislation and participation in trade-related fora

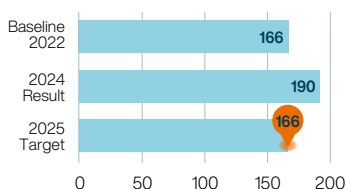
Actual Programme Target



118 actions supported in 29 countries in 2024

1.1.c – Number of studies developed through EIF support

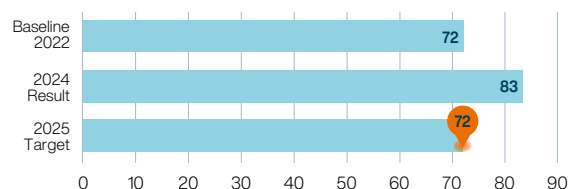
Actual Programme Target



24 studies supported by the EIF in 2024

1.1.d – Number of trade- and investment-related regulations adopted

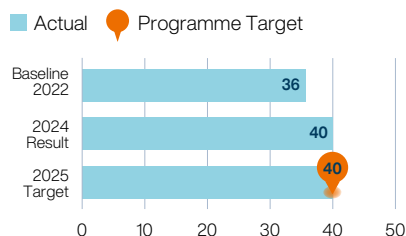
Actual Programme Target



11 regulations in 2024

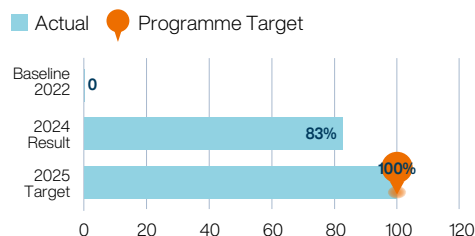
Output 1.2 – Strengthened institutional coordination for trade development and investment

1.2.a – Number of EIF (InFa) Countries with NIUs integrated into the government system



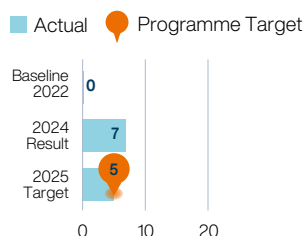
NIUs are rated as integrated in 40 of the 41 countries benefiting from the EIF InFa. Somalia is the missing country due to the nonexistence of an NIU structure

1.2.a.i – Percentage of NIUs that do not worsen their sustainability rating



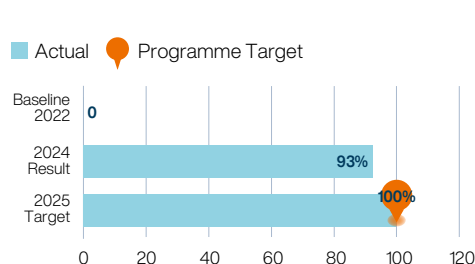
The following 6 NIUs worsened their sustainability ratings: Djibouti, Ethiopia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tuvalu and Uganda

1.2.a.ii – Number of supported NIUs that improved their sustainability rating



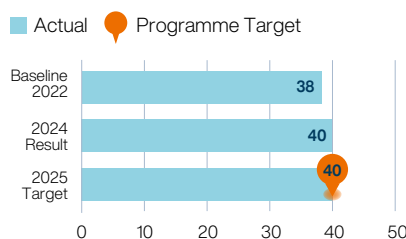
The following 7 NIUs improved their sustainability ratings: Benin, Burkina Faso, Haiti, São Tomé and Príncipe, Sierra Leone, South Sudan and Zambia

1.2.a.iii – Percentage of EIF Countries with NIUs that do not worsen their score on integration



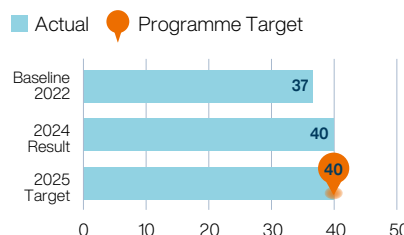
Three countries worsened their integration score (Ethiopia, Kiribati and Tuvalu)

1.2.b – Number of EIF Countries with quality functioning public-private coordination mechanisms



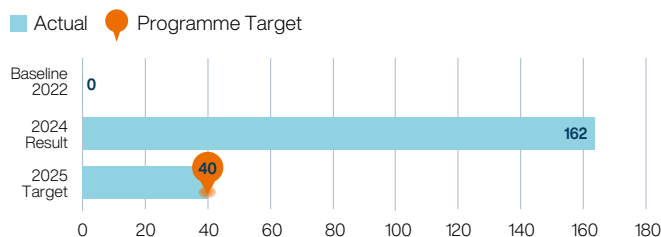
In 2024, 17 public-private coordination meetings supported by the EIF in 7 LDCs

1.2.c – Number of EIF Countries with quality government-donor dialogue mechanisms on investment- and trade-related matters



In 2024, the EIF supported 13 government-donor dialogue meetings in 8 countries

1.2.d – Number of trade coordination body meetings (committees, working groups, intersectoral groups) facilitated

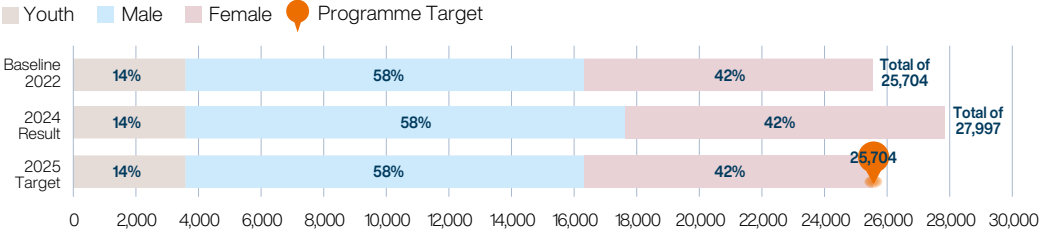


162 Trade Coordination Meetings supported by the EIF in 28 LDCs



Output 1.3 – Enhanced capacities for policy formulation and implementation

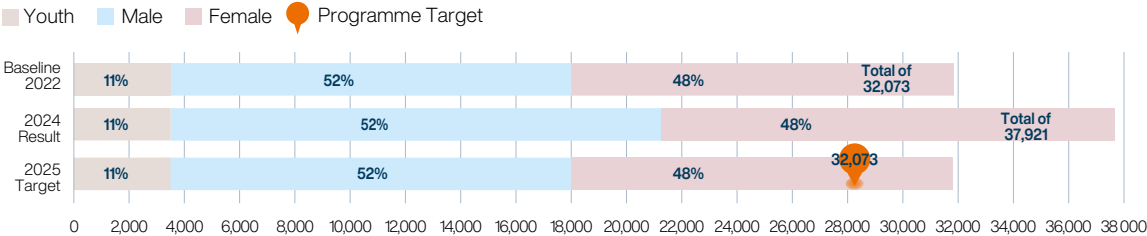
1.3.a – Number of public officials (disaggregated by gender and age) trained in investment and trade-related areas



2,293 public officials trained in 2024 in 22 LDCs / 11,754 women / 3,933 youth beneficiaries

Note: The chart shows the cumulative total of male and female participants.
Youth are included for illustrative purposes and do not contribute to the cumulative total.

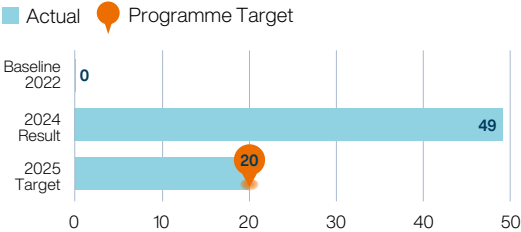
1.3.b – Number of private sector and civil society representatives (disaggregated by gender and age) trained in investment- and trade-related areas to participate in the national trade agenda



5,848 new beneficiary in 2024

Note: The chart shows the cumulative total of male and female participants.
Youth are included for illustrative purposes but do not contribute to the cumulative total.

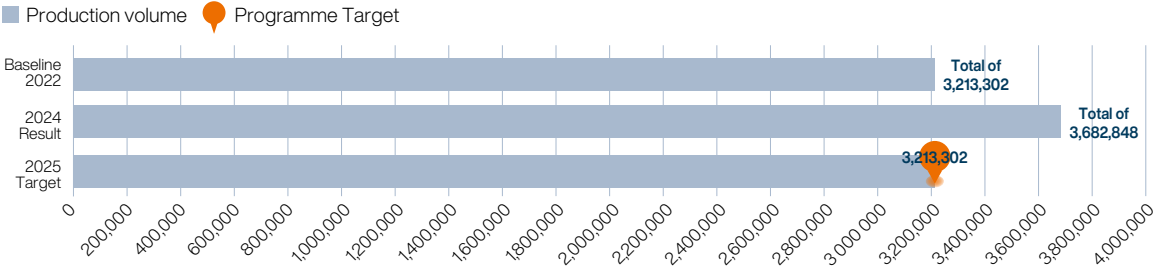
1.3.c – Number of actions conducted related to the monitoring or sustainability of past EIF projects



49 monitoring missions undertaken by 21 countries

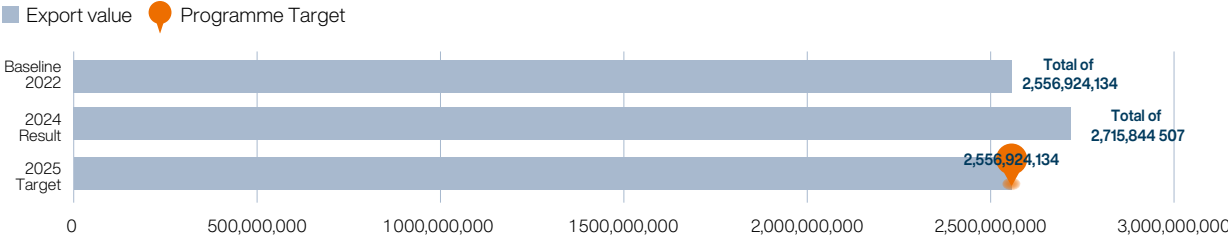
Outcome 2 – Increased exports and access to international markets for the LDCs

2.a – Volume of production generated through EIF interventions (MT)



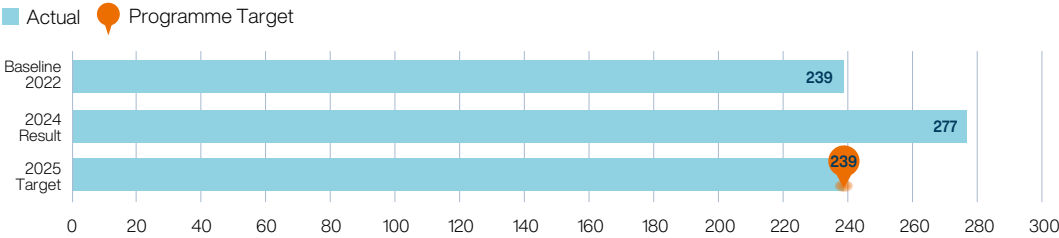
Additional 469,546 MT produced by beneficiary countries in value chains supported under EIF Phase Two

2.b – Value of exports generated through EIF interventions (in USD)

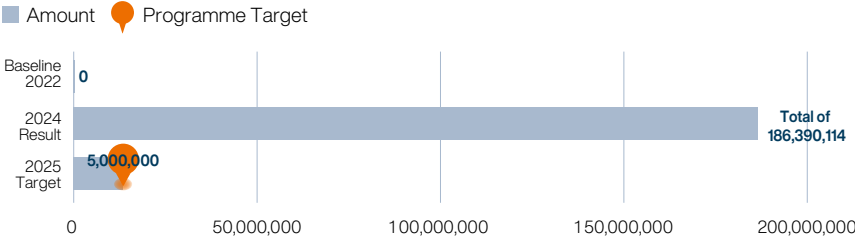


Additional USD 158,520,373

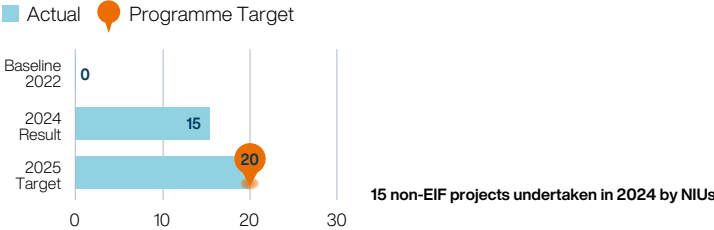
2.c – Number of new international markets accessed with support from the EIF



2.d – Additional resources managed by NIUs and/or leveraged from other sources, including donors, governments and the private sector

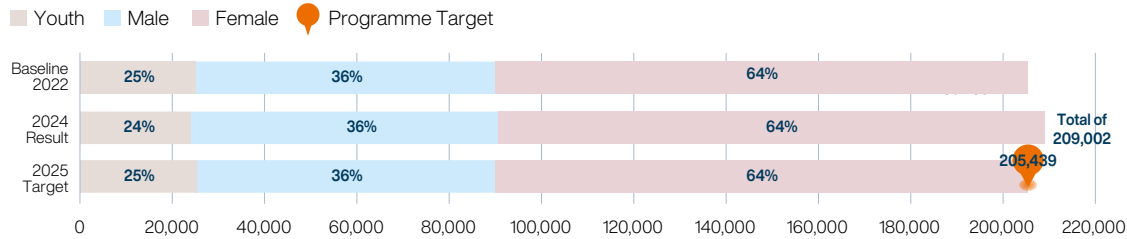


2.e – Number of additional non-EIF funded projects designed, implemented and/or coordinated by NIUs in 2024



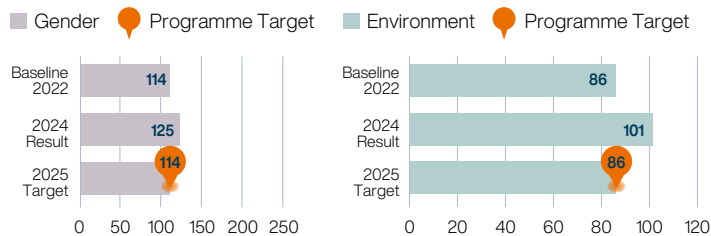
Output 2.1 – Improved participation of EIF Countries in strategic value chains for increased connectivity to markets

2.1.a – Total number of people trained in value chain practices (disaggregated by gender and age) through participation in EIF capacity-building initiatives



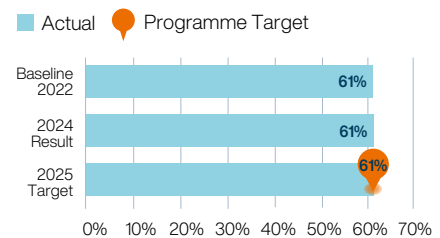
3 563 additional trained in 2024

2.1.b – Number of awareness-raising activities conducted on gender and the environment

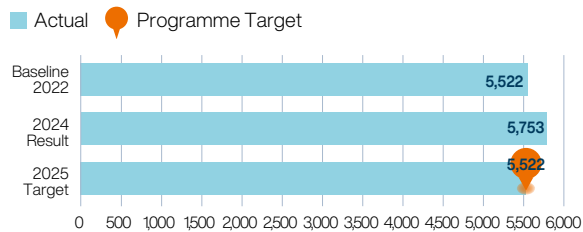


26 new actions / 11 new actions on gender / 15 new actions on environment

2.1.c – Percentage of women directly benefitting from EIF-funded productive sector projects

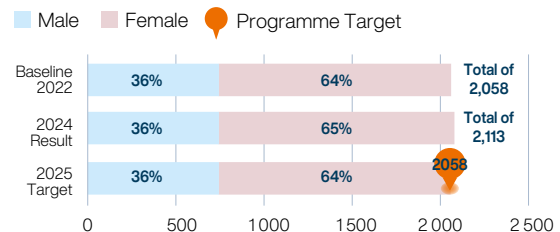


2.1.d – Number of producer associations (disaggregated by MSMEs, women-owned) trained in value chain practices



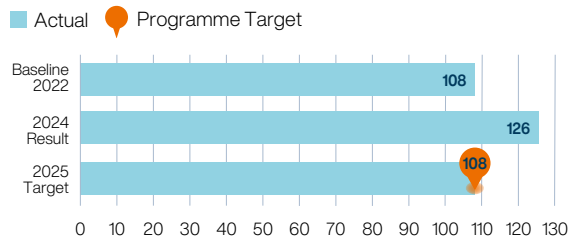
231 producer associations supported in 2024

2.1.e – Number of people (disaggregated by gender) participating in trade fairs related to market connectivity



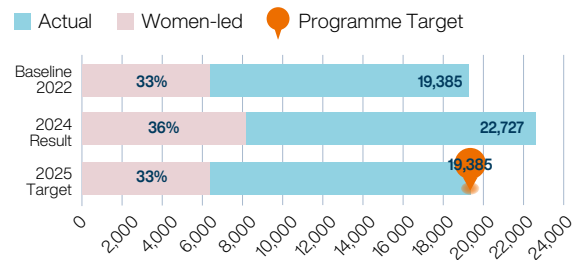
55 actors supported to attend trade fairs

2.1.f – Number of trade facilitation initiatives undertaken with EIF support



18 trade facilitation initiatives supported in 9 countries

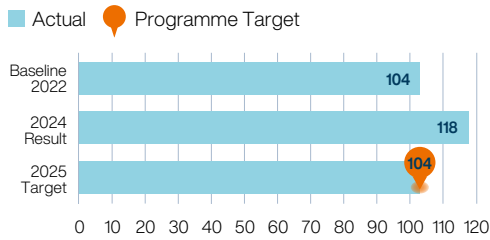
2.1.g – Number of MSMEs supported by EIF projects



3,342 MSMEs supported in 2024 / 1,717 women-led MSMEs

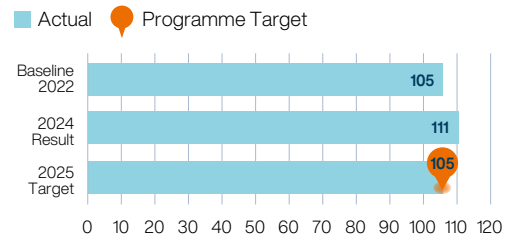
Output 2.2 – Improved technology use in production and services in selected value chains

2.2.a – Number of e-commerce initiatives undertaken



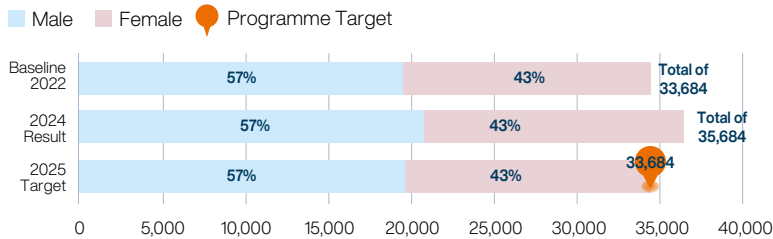
14 ecommerce initiatives supported in 2024

2.2.b – Number of new technologies adopted through EIF support



6 new technologies adopted in 2024

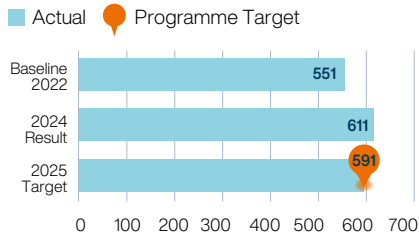
2.2.c – Number of people (disaggregated by gender) adopting new technology through EIF capacity-building initiatives



2,000 people adopting new technology / 15,419 women

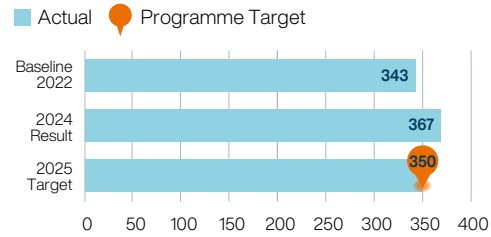
Output 2.3 – Support to the EIF Countries to leverage (directly and indirectly) additional resources

2.3.a – Number of actions undertaken by EIF partners (Agencies/MIEs) in support of leveraging finance and expertise



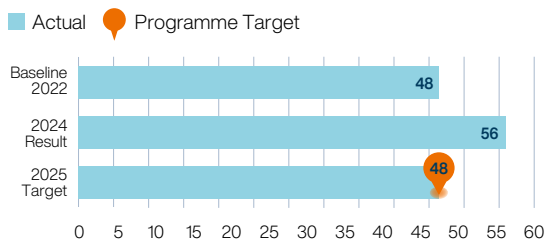
60 leveraging actions supported in 2024

2.3.b – Number of projects funded by development partners (Donors/Agencies/development banks) related to the Action Matrices of the DTISs

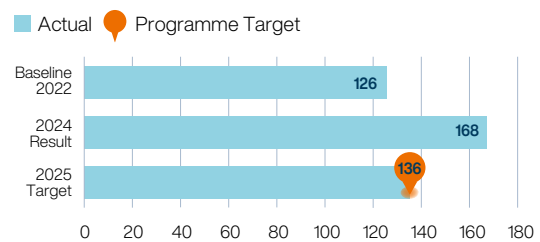


17 additional projects related to DTIS

2.3.c – Number of EIF projects leveraging private sector resources



2.3.d – Number of EIF projects receiving additional funding from governments and development partners



42 InFa projects receiving additional funding from LDC governments and development partners



List of EIF InFa projects

Country	Title	Budget (USD)	Main Implementing Entity
Bangladesh	EIF InFa Support Project	100,000	WAIPA
Benin	EIF InFa Support Project	150,000	Government of Benin
Bhutan	EIF InFa Support Project	150,000	Government of Bhutan
Burkina Faso	EIF InFa Support Project	150,000	Government of Burkina Faso
Burundi	EIF InFa Support Project	99,020	Government of Burundi
Cambodia	EIF InFa Support Project	149,800	Government of Cambodia
Central African Republic	EIF InFa Support Project	150,000	Government of CAR
Chad	EIF InFa Support Project	150,000	Government of Chad
Comoros	EIF InFa Support Project	212,661	Government of Comoros
Congo, Democratic Republic of the	EIF InFa Support Project	71,834	WAIPA
Djibouti	EIF InFa Support Project	149,730	Government of Djibouti
Ethiopia	EIF InFa Support Project	150,000	Government of Ethiopia
Gambia, The	EIF InFa Support Project	150,000	Government of The Gambia
Guinea	EIF InFa Support Project	150,000	Government of Guinea
Guinea-Bissau	EIF InFa Support Project	150,000	Government of Guinea-Bissau
Haiti	EIF InFa Support Project	150,000	Government of Haiti
Kiribati	EIF InFa Support Project	50,054	UNESCAP
Lao PDR	EIF InFa Support Project	100,000	Government of Lao PDR
Lesotho	EIF InFa Support Project	150,000	UNDP
Liberia	EIF InFa Support Project	100,000	ITC
Madagascar	EIF InFa Support Project	150,000	Government of Madagascar
Malawi	EIF InFa Support Project	100,000	WAIPA
Mali	EIF InFa Support Project	150,000	Government of Mali
Mauritania	EIF InFa Support Project	150,000	Government of Mauritania
Mozambique	EIF InFa Support Project	100,000	Government of Mozambique
Nepal	EIF InFa Support Project	100,000	Government of Nepal
Niger	EIF InFa Support Project	150,000	Government of Niger
Rwanda	EIF InFa Support Project	150,000	Government of Rwanda
São Tomé and Príncipe	EIF InFa Support Project	100,000	Government of São Tomé and Príncipe
Senegal	EIF InFa Support Project	150,000	Government of Senegal
Sierra Leone	EIF InFa Support Project	150,000	Government of Sierra Leone
Solomon Islands	EIF InFa Support Project	100,000	UNDP
Somalia	EIF InFa Support Project	150,000	TRAPCA Africa
South Sudan	EIF InFa Support Project	150,000	UNDP
Tanzania	EIF InFa Support Project	100,000	UNDP
Timor-Leste	EIF InFa Support Project	150,000	Government of Timor-Leste
Togo	EIF InFa Support Project	150,000	Government of Togo
Tuvalu	EIF InFa Support Project	50,054	UNESCAP
Tuvalu	EIF InFa Support Project	60,000	UNDP
Uganda	EIF InFa Support Project	100,000	Government of Uganda
Vanuatu	EIF InFa Support Project	100,000	WAIPA
Zambia	EIF InFa Support Project	150,000	Government of Zambia
Total		5,443,153	



Glossary

AfCFTA	African Continental Free Trade Area	OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
AfT	Aid for Trade	SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
AGOA	African Growth and Opportunity Act	SMEs	Small- and medium-sized enterprises
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations	SPIU	Single Project Implementation Unit (Rwanda)
COP29	Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC	SWAp	Sector-Wide Approach
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility	TFM	EIF Trust Fund Manager
DTIS	Diagnostic Trade Integration Study	TRAPCA	Trade Policy Training Centre in Africa
EAC	East African Community	UNCTAD	United Nations Trade and Development
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
EIF	Enhanced Integrated Framework	UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
EIF InFa	EIF Interim Facility	UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
EIFTF	EIF Trust Fund	UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
ES	Executive Secretariat for the EIF	UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
EU	European Union	UNWTO	UN Tourism
FCBL	Food Corporation of Bhutan Limited	USD	United States Dollar
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development	VFIPA	Vanuatu Foreign Investment Promotion Agency
IsDB	Islamic Development Bank	VfM	Value for Money
ITC	International Trade Centre	WAIPA	World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies
ITFC	International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation	WB	World Bank
LDCs	Least developed countries	WTO	World Trade Organization
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation		
MEL	Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning		
MIE	Main Implementing Entity		
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding		
MSMEs	Micro-, Small- and Medium-sized Enterprises		
MT	Metric tonnes		
NDP	National Development Plan		
NIU	EIF National Implementation Unit		
NTA	National Tourism Agency (Djibouti)		
NTDP	National Trade Development Committee		

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The Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) brings together partners and resources to support the least developed countries (LDCs) in using trade for poverty reduction, inclusive growth and sustainable development.

EIF Partner Agencies

International Monetary Fund (IMF)

International Trade Centre (ITC)

UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

United Nations Development
Programme (UNDP)

World Bank Group (WB)

World Trade Organization (WTO)

United Nations Industrial Development
Organization (UNIDO)

World Tourism Organization (UN Tourism)

EIF Trust Fund Manager

United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)

EIF Trust Fund Donors

